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**Philip Roth's 'American Pastoral'**  
 Books

**Best and worst duty-free buys**  
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## Gov't panel recommends El Al fly on Shabbat

By DAVID HARRIS

El Al should fly on Shabbat once the company is privatized early next year, the government-appointed committee that is researching selling the national carrier recommended.

The report is to be published Sunday, but yesterday committee chairman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's economics adviser Moshe Leon confirmed some of the proposals.

In response to the halachically

compromising blueprint prepared with the full cooperation of the NRP-led Transport Ministry, Deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism) last night described the proposal as terrifying.

Other politicians from religious parties also condemned the proposals, with several secular MKs saying they too will oppose the plans for a variety of reasons.

The key proposals include:

- A public flotation in Tel Aviv of 100 percent of El Al shares.

• Flights on Shabbat, as long as Ben-Gurion Airport's total Shabbat traffic does not exceed its current level.

• Guaranteeing full compensation for workers who are laid off.

• Continued government involvement in El Al security.

The second of these proposals already has been roundly condemned by politicians across the political spectrum, with several members of the Knesset Finance committee saying they will not support the plan.

The political implications of flying on Shabbat are enormous, with the religious parties likely to threaten to pull-out of the government as a result.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (NRP) last night told *The Jerusalem Post* he has yet to receive a copy of the report, but a senior NRP official familiar with the committee's work said yesterday, "Politically, I am very scared by this."

Levy has repeatedly said he will not approve any proposals that include Shabbat flights. However,

Knesset Finance committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said he would not comment for the time being, but he had received an assurance from Levy that the proposals would mean no increase in Shabbat transgression.

"Any attempt to fly on Shabbat will be vigorously opposed by all the religious parties," said MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas).

With the cabinet committee on privatization likely to discuss the proposals in the coming weeks, Levy

said he is convinced the Shabbat flights will not be approved.

"The government will not change the status quo," said Levy. "I have no guarantees, but the government will not change a fundamental principle."

Despite that confidence, Leon, a confidante of Netanyahu, along with Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni and Transport Ministry director-general Nahoum Langental have realized the economic need for the company to fly every day.

There are several religious investors prepared to purchase the company without Shabbat flights, insisted Levy.

However, favoring a public flotation, Leon said, "If there are religious investors, let



## NEWS

in brief

### 249 Palestinians jailed without charges

Since the Oslo agreements, the length of administrative detentions has increased dramatically and 249 Palestinians are currently being held in Israeli jails without charges. Mahmoud Zeid is serving his eighth six-month term, and 11 others are in their sixth term. More than half have had their terms extended at least once.

"This is unprecedented. During the intifada, only rarely were detainees held for extended periods," according to a B'Tselem report.

The IDF Spokesman responded that administrative detention is invoked only when the area commander sees "a serious and clear danger to the area."

Jerusalem Post Staff

### Shots fired at Ramallah stone-throwers

Stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles travelling near Ramallah yesterday morning. An unknown man responded by firing shots in the air to disperse the stone throwers near the A-Ram checkpoint. Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan said the man, travelling in a Renault Express car, wasn't caught. "Luckily no damage or injuries were reported," he said.

Margot Dudkevitch

### Bnei Brak man charged with abusing minor

A 40-year-old Bnei Brak resident was charged in Tel Aviv District Court with physically, mentally and sexually abusing a minor for the past 10 years - from the time she was eight. The district attorney asked that the suspect be remanded until the end of legal proceedings against him, saying he threatened to murder the girl if she filed a complaint against him. The court postponed the remand hearing until Tuesday, and the suspect will remain in jail meanwhile.

Itim

### Meretz MKs: Fix IDF yeshiva student quota

Meretz MKs Amnon Rubinstein and Haim Oron, together with a number of reserve soldiers, petitioned the High Court of Justice to fix a quota for the number of yeshiva students that receive exemptions from military service.

Granting exemptions to thousands of yeshiva students places an extra burden on those who do compulsory and reserve duty, the petition said. This year, some 27,500 exemptions will be granted.

The exemption was intended to protect Jewish learning, but there is no longer a threat to the existence of yeshivot and this reasoning no longer holds, they said.

Batsheva Tsor and Itim

### 'Crying burglar' gets five and a half years

Zevulun Naor, 25, of Rehovot, was sentenced yesterday by Rehovot Magistrate's Court to five-and-a-half years imprisonment for a number of burglaries in the city. Naor became known by police as "the crying burglar" for his practice of bursting into tears whenever he was caught or brought before a judge - which usually resulted in a suspended sentence. Yesterday, however, despite weeping profusely and begging the court for mercy, Naor was sent to prison.

Itim

### Kirov Ballet opens Israel Festival

A near capacity crowd of close to 4,000 people last night attended the opening event of the 1997 Israel Festival. Jerusalem, a performance of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake by the legendary Kirov Ballet of St. Petersburg. It's the first time the company has visited Israel. The thrilled audience included Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Helen Kaye

## Journalist: Ne'eman illegally raised funds for Netanyahu

By BAT SHEVA TSOR

New information allegedly ties attorney Ya'acov Ne'eman's election fundraising activities to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to appoint him justice minister, according to a petition to the High Court of Justice.

Journalist Yoav Yitzhak yesterday asked the court to prevent Ne'eman's reappointment, saying that he has proof that Netanyahu was indebted to Ne'eman for having illegally raised NIS 1.6 million for his election campaign.

The case dates back to June 1996 when, on the eve of the cabinet's formation, Yitzhak petitioned the court to prevent Ne'eman from being appointed

a minister on the grounds that he had been involved in fraudulent activities. At that time, the court heard the part of the petition dealing with the Deri affair.

But Yitzhak yesterday submitted additional material relating to his claim that Ne'eman should not be a minister. He charged that Ne'eman, who administered donations to the non-profit Security Forum for National Strength, had illegally funneled the monies to Netanyahu's campaign.

Ne'eman, who is abroad, was not available for comment.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Buzak said, however, that Ne'eman was appointed on his merits.

"The prime minister will relate to other claims in his reply to the court," Buzak told Israel Radio.

## Betar Jerusalem tax probe widens

By ORI LEWIS

The Income Tax Authority probe into alleged improprieties by players of National League champions Betar Jerusalem continued yesterday when club captain Eli Ohana and chairman Moshe Dadash were questioned.

The investigation took on broader proportions with the arrest and release on NIS 500,000 bail yesterday of former Betar goalkeeper and coach Yossi Mizrahi. Mizrahi, now coach of Hapoel Jerusalem, was barred from leaving the country for six months.

Two retired Betar players, Udi Ashash and Meir Kadusha, were also questioned and released on bail yesterday after being arrested on similar charges.

Ohana and Dadash were questioned for four hours yesterday concerning claims the club and Ohana failed to declare extra income and perks. Their interro-

gation is due to continue today at the authority's offices in Holon.

Ohana did not seem worried by the probe. "This is all just a big misunderstanding. The tax men are doing their job, but the whole matter will be cleared up soon," the Betar star said.

Last week, another Betar player, Ronen Harazi, was questioned and released on bail, following alleged failure to declare income and perks. Harazi was also barred from leaving the country. That ban was lifted yesterday for a month, clearing the way for the striker to travel to Moscow for the national squad's World Cup qualifying match with Russia on June 8.

Betar chairman Dadash and the club's general manager, Abraham Levy, have stated on several occasions during the last week that the club was responsible for taking care of the players' tax payments.

## MKs call for halt to peace process

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs from the Land of Israel Front yesterday demanded that the continuation of the peace process be made conditional on the Palestinian Authority revoking its death sentence for selling land to Jews.

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher) called the law "racist" and said the front has decided to take a number of steps to protect Israeli Arabs under threat, while lobbying abroad and at home to create pressure which could bring about the law's cancellation. At a press conference on Tuesday, Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Fathi Abu Medein said that Israeli Arabs who sell land to Jews would be dealt with.

The members of the front began circulating a petition in the Knesset

asking MKs, and the Arab ones in particular, to denounce the PA law. They also have asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to mobilize other parliamentarians to pressure the Palestinians into rescinding the law.

Kleiner said he asked Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to examine the possibility of taking steps against Abu Medein, including rescinding his VIP permit and asking the PA to remove him from his position.

"That a member of the Palestinian Authority can say that Israeli Arabs, who make up almost 20 percent of the population, face the death penalty for selling land in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ramle or elsewhere to Jews is an obvious deviation from international law and the framework of

the law," Kleiner said. "I have no doubt that if such a threat was made against US citizens, the US would immediately respond."

He also noted that Arab newspapers had refused to publish a paid advertisement announcing the hot line the front is operating with the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza for those who feel under threat because of land sales.

MK Hashem Mahameed (Hadash) yesterday also condemned Abu Medein's statements, saying he had no right to tell Israeli Arabs how to behave.

On another issue, the front members voiced their support of a bill by MK Benny Elon (Moleket) which would apply Israeli law to the Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

## Levy: Iran poll could affect region

By LIAT COLLINS

Foreign Minister David Levy said yesterday the results of the Iranian elections last week could affect the whole region. But no changes in Tehran's foreign policy are likely to take place immediately.

Levy, answering two motions to the agenda by Alexander Lubotzky (Third Way) and Haggai Merom (Labor), said foreign relations did not play a central role in the Iranian elections, but it is possible the US policy of restraint played a role in the choice of president there. Levy stressed, however, that the change stemmed primarily from domestic considerations.

Levy said Israel had never "seen Iran as an enemy or a target. We would be happy to see Iran join a regional effort to

reduce tension," said Levy.

He accused the Iranian regime of encouraging and aiding terror, and even warned that it could face the same fate as Iraq. He said the West is likely to form an international coalition against Iran, like that against Iraq.

"As long as the Iranian regime continues its policy of negating human rights, of terror, torpedoing the peace process, and attempts to arm itself with weapons of mass destruction, Iran cannot expect cooperation in every field," Levy said.

He also called for Iran to help locate missing navigator Ron Arad.

In answer to motions to the agenda by Moshe Shahal (Labor) and Silvan Shalom (Likud) on Tuesday's Shalom e-Shelach conference, Levy said the opposition is not acting fairly towards the government.

## SLA soldier wounded

By DAVID RUDGE

A South Lebanese Army soldier was lightly wounded in fighting in the security zone yesterday morning as the recent wave of attacks by Hizbullah continued.

The soldier was wounded during a long-range mortar attack on a SLA stronghold in the Barasheet region, in the zone's western sector. Reports from Lebanon said a number of rounds hit the post and the soldier apparently was wounded from shrapnel. He was taken to a hospital in nearby Bint J'ail.

Around the same time, Hizbullah gunmen fired a number of Sagger anti-tank missiles at a SLA armored vehicle that was in the vicinity. There were no casualties in the attack, although the vehicle itself, reported to be an armored personnel carrier, was damaged. IDF gunners returned fire.

In the afternoon, another SLA outpost, in the Jezzeine enclave north of the security zone, also came under mortar fire, sparking another exchange of fire. There were no casualties in that incident. There have been reports that Hizbullah leaders recently met with Iran's ambassador in Lebanon to discuss the overwhelming victory of moderate cleric Mohammed Khatami in Iran's recent presidential elections.

Lebanese observers do not expect the outcome of the vote to have any effect on Iran's continued financial and military support for Hizbullah, at least not in the short term. Hizbullah's primary supporter and its ideological mentor is reported to be Iran's supreme spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who will continue to wield power even after Khatami officially takes office in the coming months.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has sent a message of congratulations to Khatami. According to observers, Khatami is likely to adopt the same approach to Hizbullah as outgoing President Hashemi Rafsanjani, himself a supporter of Nasrallah. Meanwhile, shooting broke out on Wednesday in a Palestinian camp near the south Lebanon port city of Tyre after two men were hurt in fights between rival factions, security sources said.

The shooting continued for two hours in Bays camp at the southern entrance of Tyre but there was no immediate report of casualties, the sources said. They were not able to identify the combatants, but said the shooting followed fights with fists and knives at the camp on Tuesday evening between members of the Modern Fundamentalist, Ansarallah, Supporters of God and a pro-Syrian group named Sa'qa (Thunder).



Tzurif gang's captors honored

OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir (right) awards a certificate of appreciation yesterday to Etzion Brigade commander Col. A. who accepts on behalf of his troops. Soldiers, border policemen, police, and General Security Service personnel received certificates for helping to uncover the Hamas terrorist gang in Kafr Tzurif and finding soldier Sharon Edri's body there in April.

(IDF Spokesman)

## Kuttab relishes freedom

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab, 42, was content to spend his first day of freedom at home with his wife and children yesterday, in between press conferences in Ramallah and eastern Jerusalem, where he described his ordeal.

"Nothing comes on a silver platter - I hope to succeed in the battle," he said.

Kuttab, a US citizen who also holds a Jerusalem identity card, was arrested a week ago after broadcasting sessions of the

Palestinian Legislative Council on his television channel. He was freed Tuesday night.

During the weeklong ordeal, Kuttab spent five days on hunger strike at the Ramallah jail. The last three days were spent in solitary confinement.

During the entire period, he said, he was never questioned by police.

"The first two days I was allowed visits by my family and lawyers, but then the visits were suddenly cut off," he said, adding that his lawyers were at a loss, because no formal charges were pressed.

"The worst part was being away from my family," he said.

"The chief of police at the station told me he had received orders from someone high up in the Authority. He was uncomfortable with the whole episode," he said.

"Two things came out of my arrest - indirectly the Palestinian Authority has raised the whole issue of the public's right to know about what is discussed in the legislative sessions. Even today the Legislative Council discussed my arrest and members demanded an investigation be carried out and

also called for the sessions to be broadcasted. Let's just hope they act on their words," he said.

He noted that Al-Quds newspaper and Palestinian Authority television never published or broadcast anything about his arrest.

Kuttab, who is director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University and co-director of Journalists Middle East, a non-profit organization that defends freedom of expression, is planning a big celebration for his friends and supporters at his home near Atarot in northern Jerusalem on Saturday.

## Knesset to discuss Conversion Law

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Law Committee is scheduled to discuss the continued passage of the Conversion Law on Wednesday, with the agreement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This was decided at a meeting between MKs from the religious parties and the premier last night. Netanyahu, however, urged the MKs to explore possible solutions to avoid creating a division between Israeli and World Jewry.

Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said he is willing to explore the possibility of a compromise including the suggestion by MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way) that all converts would be listed as Jewish in their identity cards and the type of conversion - Orthodox, Conservative or Reform - would be listed in

the Population Registry.

Shas leader Aryeh Deri reportedly supports this solution; NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat opposes it; and Yahalom said he would discuss it with rabbinic authorities.

The coalition also continued with their discussion on the bill yesterday spurred by the fact that the Conservative and Reform movements have not frozen their High Court petitions on the issue. The religious parties are concerned by the demand by the High Court that the Knesset make a decision on the issue by June 30. Unless the judicial proceedings are frozen, the legislation must be ready by that date, said Yahalom.

Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan has criticized the Reform and Conservative movements for not withdrawing their high court petitions to recognize conversions carried out by them in Israel. But he

stressed that the discussions would be on the more narrow version of the bill which would in effect anchor in law the current status quo under which Israel recognizes non-orthodox conversions performed abroad but not those carried out here.

The bill passed first reading at the end of March, before the spring recess, after Eitan promised that the legislation would then be frozen as long as the Reform and Conservative Jews suspended their court actions. He also noted the bill is included in the coalition agreement.

Meanwhile, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid yesterday called on Reform and Conservative Jews to boycott Netanyahu and his coalition partners. "Netanyahu again gave preference to his black coalition," Sarid said. He said Netanyahu had lied when he agreed to freeze the legislation after first reading.

### FLY

Continued from Page 1

The idea of buying Ben-Gurion traffic at its current level means other companies would have to reduce their Shabbat flights to allow EL to enter the market.

"This will harm our relations with foreign players and Goldschmidt."

Others MKs, including Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, and Yitzhak Mordechai, also expressed concern about security since the firm is

privatized.

From a financial perspective, Levin said it was decided to opt for a public flotation over the sale of the controlling share to keep the flag ship company in the nation's hands.

A senior EL executive said the company has yet to hear the recommendations, but it is good news if the government does push ahead with the sale. However he remained skeptical of the government's ability to implement the sale.

"It's like being a member of Lebanon's Havaadot. Well, we will be privatized after the coming of the Messiah," he said.

The executive said he also is concerned that the public would not want to buy shares in a company that only operates five-and-a-half days a week.

### FEUD

Continued from Page 1

Ministry sources pointed to the impropriety of the appointment of Davis, who until recently was one of AIPAC's senior activists, as a senior Israeli diplomat in Washington. The sources noted that AIPAC took great pains to present itself as an independent American lobby totally detached from the Israeli government.

Davis's appointment would damage this image and present AIPAC as a branch of the government, an embarrassing situation especially after the Pollard affair, the sources said.

Hillel Kuttler adds from Washington: AIPAC officials angrily denounced what they called Ma'ariv's shoddy reporting over

the weekend, that alleged the organization's leaders had urged the Prime Minister's Office to rescind Davis's appointment. The officials said AIPAC not only never contacted the office before or after the announcement, but that they had been surprised to hear of the appointment.

They unanimously praised their former colleague as an excellent bridge between the two countries

and welcomed the news.

AIPAC is incensed most by the paper's suggestion that Davis's arrival would be worrisome, because of potential associations with convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, with one official calling it "such garbage" and another "complete fiction."

"It's a challenge, but it's not a big deal. It's just something we have to be careful about," he said.

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## Eskin convicted of incitement

News agencies

Avigdor Eskin, who put a curse on prime minister Yitzhak Rabin a month before he was assassinated, was convicted in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday of violating the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Eskin is to be sentenced on Sunday.

The Justice Ministry said he could receive a maximum sentence of six years.

"The conviction relates to the interview he gave on television about the pulsa dinura [curse] succeeding," court spokesman Moshe Goral said.

In an interview on Channel 1 after the assassination, Eskin said, "On the Eve of Yom Kippur we went to the home of then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin with a prayer composed by three kabbalists and that prayer was the pulsa dinura, a prayer for this [the assassination], that this man would be removed, along with his evil deeds, from this world."

Eskin said the curse generally



Avigdor Eskin  
(Ariel Jerusalem)

worked within 30 days, and Rabin was assassinated on November 4, about a month after Yom Kippur. In the prayer, Eskin asked that "And on him, Yitzhak, son of Rosa, known as Rabin, we have permission ... to demand from angels of destruction that they take a sword to this wicked man ... to kill him ... for handing over the Land of Israel to

our enemies."

When the interviewer asked Eskin if his prayer had been accepted, Eskin replied, "Completely. ... I'm not sorry about the death of Rabin."

Judge Bilha Kahane said in giving her verdict that Eskin's statements, given their timing and context, were liable to have inspired acts of violence, or even have caused injury or death.

Eskin also was charged with organizing a ceremony last February to pronounce a pulsa dinura against Labor leader Shimon Peres. Another charge related to an attempt to celebrate assassin Yigal Amir's birthday.

## 6 Iraqi asylum-seekers escape expulsion

By BATSEVA TSUR

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is cooperating with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) to find a country that will accept six Iraqis who sought asylum in Israel three years ago and have been held in jail since then.

The High Court of Justice yesterday ruled the six could not be expelled to another country without the knowledge and agreement of that country, upholding a request included in a petition submitted by ACRI.

However, Justices Aharon Barak, Dalia Dorner and Yitzhak Zamir did not accede to

another ACRI request that the six be freed, saying the Iraqis would have to remain in detention for the sake of state security. At the same time, the justices asked that the government continue its search for a country that would be willing to accept the six.

Advocate Moshe Cohen, who represented the Iraqi citizens on behalf of ACRI, said later that negotiations were underway with "a certain country" that would be willing to accept the six. Cohen expressed satisfaction that the court upheld the request not to expel them to a country which borders Israel and where their lives could have been in danger.

Following the ruling, one of the six men asked the court's permission to make a statement. Speaking in Hebrew, he said: "We have done nothing. We are not dangerous. You do not know what the Iraqi regime is like and what it is like to live in Iraq. We just want to live like human beings and to receive human rights. If we are expelled to Jordan or Lebanon, they will definitely send us back to Iraq and there they will hang us."

The court noted that the government had no intention of expelling the men to a country that did not agree to receive them and that it would inform the petitioners if there was any change.

AT THE KNESSET

## Bill aims to stop AIDS discrimination

By LIAT COLLINS

A bill that would target the discrimination of AIDS victims passed preliminary reading yesterday by a unanimous vote of 17 MKs.

The bill, sponsored by Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), would bar employers from firing workers because they have AIDS; prevent school principals from taking children with AIDS out of classes; require health funds to provide all available treatment to AIDS sufferers; and ban doctors from refusing to treat AIDS patients.

Blumenthal stressed the law would reduce the number of carriers of the HIV virus who are "in hiding" and help prevent the spread of the disease.

Inon Schenkar of the Jerusalem AIDS Project praised the bill as "one which would make Israel one of the most enlightened countries

in its treatment of AIDS victims."

Panel prepares final reading

for Prisoners of Zion bill  
Noami Blumenthal (Likud), who chairs the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, said yesterday the committee will act to prepare for final reading a bill granting compensation to former Prisoners of Zion and their families. She said she hoped the bill could become law in time for the 1998 budget. The bill was brought by Emanuel Zissman (Third Way) in the last Knesset.

Former Prisoner of Zion Ida Nudel told the committee yesterday: "The time has come to grant us the respect we deserve, in more than just words."

1,000 needlessly institutionalized  
Some 1,000 people have been

unnecessarily hospitalized in psychiatric homes for several years, according to MK Yona Yahav (Labor), who raised the issue as a parliamentary question. Yahav said they included Holocaust survivors, the elderly, and some homeless people.

He said the figure was verified by Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri (Shas) in answer to a question.

Yahav is demanding the ministry publish a schedule for its investigation into who is hospitalized in psychiatric facilities and the release of those whose stay cannot be justified.

Study demanded on school payments  
The Knesset Education Committee yesterday demanded representatives of the Education Ministry present the committee

with a detailed schedule of cuts in the amounts parents are asked to pay for school activities.

The committee, chaired by Emanuel Zissman (Third Way), rejected the proposals for parental payments next year, because it did not relate to a previous decision to gradually phase out the payments.

New guide to the Knesset

For the first time, a book containing comprehensive information about the Knesset, MKs, and ministries has been published, based on the format of the guide to the US Congress. "The Guide to the Knesset and Government," published by Policy, a Tel Aviv-based political communications and management company, includes a short profile of individual MKs and ministers, contact phone numbers and addresses.



Maryam Banah sits with a child on the rubble of her partly demolished house in Silwan yesterday.  
(Brian Hendler)

## Silwan demolition halted by court

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The demolition of an illegally constructed house in Jerusalem's Silwan neighborhood was temporarily halted by a court order yesterday, but the city says it will continue to knock down illegally built houses wherever in the city they are constructed.

"It shows that we will continue to knock down these illegal houses the moment that we have permission from the court," said Hagai Elias, spokesman for the mayor. "Two days ago we destroyed a house in Ramot."

Elias said the city began tearing down the 180-square-meter house about 8 a.m. yesterday, after receiving the necessary court approval. The owner of the house then brought a temporary halt order from the court that is in effect until noon today.

Yesterday's demolition came two days after it was reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted to freeze the demolition of illegal buildings in eastern Jerusalem. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert told *The Jerusalem Post* that the issue of illegal housing in Jerusalem was not under the prime

minister's jurisdiction.

"This is not Netanyahu's authority, it's my authority, and I didn't decide to do it," Olmert said.

Elias said there are hundreds of illegal constructions that are presently the subject of court actions. "The moment we have the approval of the court, we'll go out [and knock them down]," he said. "It could be any day."

He said the city followed standard procedure, allowing tenants 48 hours after the court order to leave the house. In yesterday's episode, Elias said, the owner didn't petition the court until after the 48 hours.

## Carmelit manager arrested

Haifa deputy mayor forced to resign in separate case

By DAVID RUDGE and Tim

The general manager of Haifa's Carmelit underground funicular, Dan Fishman, was remanded for 24 hours yesterday after being arrested the previous night at Ben-Gurion Airport while trying to leave the country.

He afterwards complained of feeling unwell and was admitted to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Fishman was suspended by Mayor Amram Mitzna earlier this week, after alleged financial irregularities were discovered by the accountant of the Carmelit company when he conducted a surprise audit.

Carmelit board chairman Avi

Goldhammer has filed a complaint with police alleging that Fishman embezzled some NIS 400,000 from the company, by submitting fictitious bills and then paying the money into his own pocket.

In another case of alleged corruption in Haifa, Deputy Mayor Pinhas Narkis resigned yesterday following a series of complaints filed with the police fraud squad accusing him of defrauding on personal loans and embezzling funds.

Narkis has also been named in several civil suits filed with the Haifa District Court claiming the return of hundreds of thousands of shekels. Among the plaintiffs are Narkis's sister and brother-in-law,

who mortgaged their home to guarantee some of his loans.

Some of those owed money by Narkis recently began demonstrating outside city council meetings, but Mayor Mitzna had reportedly refrained from demanding his resignation until the police investigation was concluded.

Yesterday, however, Narkis handed Mitzna a letter of resignation, protesting his innocence and claiming he was being subjected to a "trial by the press." In his letter Narkis also praised the mayor for "not being swept up" in the "wild mood of judgment" against him and for treating him with respect, something "I will always remember."

## One Year of Netanyahu's Government of Failure

Let's show Bibi the way home

He is destroying the peace process  
He is endangering security  
He is isolating Israel from the world  
He is damaging democracy

He is undermining the rule of law  
He is investing in the settlements  
He is freezing economic growth  
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Bibi is a danger to Israel. We must show him the way home.

Join our march from the Prime Minister's Office to the home of Netanyahu

Saturday night, May 31, 1997

Meeting place: Prime Minister's Office, Jerusalem 19:30

A rally will start at 20:15 in the Benia Square

Prepare for a future event in Tel-Aviv.



## The Peace Process-Obstacles & Expectations

Symposium with Senior Representatives of Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Israel  
Monday, June 2, 1997, at 5 p.m. at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

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לשלום  
ולביטחון

Introductory Remarks:

Gen. (Res.) Shlomo Lahat (Chich)

Participants:

Dr. Lutfi Khoully, Egypt (senior Editor, Al-Ahram)

Gen. (Res.) Ihsan Shurdom, Jordan (former Commander of the Jordanian Air Force)

Prof. Sari Nusseiba, The Palestinian Authority (President of Al-Quds University)

Dr. David Kimchi, Israel (former Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Organizers:

The International Alliance for Arab-Israeli Peace ("The Copenhagen Declaration")

The Council For Peace and Security

The Israel Council for Foreign Relations

The public is invited (Admission: NIS 15)

In January 1997, Egyptians, Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians assembled in Copenhagen and jointly founded an international movement for peace between Israel and the Arabs. The founders, who comprised some 40 members of parliament, Knesset members, intellectuals, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders, writers, poets and businessmen proclaimed, in the presence of other supporters of peace from all over the world, the Copenhagen Declaration, which says, inter alia: "Peace is too important to be left solely in the hands of governments. Direct ties between the people and peoples of the region are essential to salvaging the peace process in the Middle East."

TRANSPORTATION - NORTH: Karmiel, mall-15:30, Kiriat Tivon, The Square-16:30, Zichron Yaakov, central bus station-17:15, Natania, The Sharon mall-18:00, Naharia, central bus station-16:10, Kfarot, Zabar junction-16:30, Kfarot, The "Zif"-16:45, The "Chek Post"-17:00, Haifa, Solel Bone-16:20, Haifa, The Mothers Garden-16:35, Haifa, The Ziv Center-16:35, Haifa, The Horev Center-16:45. SHARON AREA: Kfar Sava, central bus station-17:00, Kfar Sava, The Zomet mall-17:10, Raanana, The Mashbir-17:15, Herzlia, central bus station-17:30, Ramat Hasharon, Bank Leumi in Sokolov st.-17:45, Tel-Aviv, Hechal Hatzabot-17:50. CENTER: Holon, Beit Yad La Banim in Koogel av.-17:15, Rishon La Zion, near the central bus station-17:40, Nes Ziona, bus station next to the Kenieter-17:50, Rehovot, parking lot in Gordon st.-18:00. SOUTH: Arad, matnas (community center)-16:30, Be'er Sheva, gas station next to Eged-17:15.

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# Clinton urges investment in east Europe

News agencies

THE HAGUE — US President Bill Clinton urged western private investors yesterday to pump more money into former communist states in eastern Europe following billions of dollars already provided by the west.

"I think that most of what still needs to be done is accelerate the pace of private investment, and it's very different in different countries," he said at an EU-US summit.

Clinton was in The Hague for a twice-yearly summit with the European Union before taking part in celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, which transferred more than \$12 billion in aid to Western Europe after World War Two.

A European Union summit in Amsterdam next month is expected to agree internal reforms paving the way for an invitation to a dozen ex-communist states, barred from receiving Marshall aid 50 years ago, to join the Union over the next 10 years.

"America salutes the EU's commitment to expand to central and eastern Europe," Clinton told leaders of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in The Hague.

"We strongly support this historic process and believe it should move ahead swiftly. A more prosperous Europe will be a stronger Europe and also a stronger partner for Europe's north American friends, America and Canada," he said.

The European and North American leaders met in the Dutch seat of government to commemorate the plan, proposed in 1947 by Secretary of State George Marshall and widely credited with jump-starting Europe's shattered

post-war economy.

"In today's dollars the value of the Marshall Plan investments in Europe was about \$88 billion. We have seen the international financial institutions commit about \$50 billion already to the former Communist countries, plus about \$45 billion in private investment," Clinton said.

He added that work needed to be done with individual countries in the former Communist bloc to see what sort of fresh action was necessary, stopping short of directly answering journalists' questions on whether the United States was considering a new Marshall Plan for eastern Europe.

## Problems at home

Asked about his legal problems at home, US President Bill Clinton said yesterday he is concerned about the future of American presidents.

Clinton said he was "concerned about the future of American presidents" after the Supreme Court decision allowing Paula Jones to proceed with her sex-harassment lawsuit against him.

"But there may not be anything to be done about that," he told reporters a day after the landmark ruling.

Speaking after meeting separately with the Supreme Court justices, Clinton declined to comment on the specifics of the case, saying he would let his lawyers handle it.

Clinton said he was "concerned about the future of American presidents" after the Supreme Court decision allowing Paula Jones to proceed with her sex-harassment lawsuit against him.

Clinton made his first remarks on the ruling after a news conference with European Union leaders.

Dutch officials did not call upon US reporters for questions, so Clinton spoke to them while shaking hands on a city street.

Asked about the case's problems, Clinton said: "As to what might happen to future presidents, I am concerned about that, but there may not be anything to be done about that."

The Supreme Court made its decision on the case on Tuesday. The ruling was overshadowed by Clinton's remarks.

Clinton said that while he was "concerned about the future of American presidents," he was not "concerned about the future of American presidents."

Clinton said that while he was "concerned about the future of American presidents," he was not "concerned about the future of American presidents."



A rebel soldier threatens students demonstrating near Kinshasa's main train station yesterday before the protest was broken up by troops who confiscated journalists' film of the event. The government of Laurent Kabila has banned demonstrations and political activity.

# Kabila's soldiers break up opposition march

News agencies

KINSHASA — Soldiers broke up a banned opposition march in Kinshasa yesterday, on the eve of Laurent Kabila's inauguration as president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, his new name for Zaire.

Several thousand supporters of veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi took part in the march, denouncing the presence of Rwandans among Kabila's forces who marched into Kinshasa on May 17 to oust veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

Soldiers from Kabila's Alliance allowed the march to go ahead after initial hesitation but dispersed the protesters later, firing in the air and beating them with batons and rifle butts.

Organizers of yesterday's march said the self-proclaimed president and his ruling alliance are no bet-

ter than the nearly 32-year dictatorship they deposed. State-run radio said Kabila would be sworn into office today at the People's Palace, where parliament meets.

"They claim to be liberators, but it is as if they have taken us from one prison cell to another prison cell," said Raymond Kahungu Mbemba, a leader of the youth movement of the opposition Union for Democracy and Social Progress. "We cannot accept that."

But Foreign Minister Bizima Karaha defended the hard-line stand of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo against opposition groups.

"We cannot have democracy if there is no peace," he said. "We cannot have development if there is no peace, so anybody who wants to create instability is an enemy of democracy, is an enemy of development, is an enemy of

progressive forces." Congo's 46 million people "want food, they want medicine, they want to go to school. They won't achieve that by creating chaos," he said.

The Alliance announced a ban on public meetings and protests Monday and warned that violators would be considered "enemies of the liberation of the Congolese people and be punished to the fullest extent of the law."

The ban was the latest restrictive policy by Kabila since his fighters seized Kinshasa May 17, ending Mobutu Sese Seko's dictatorship. Kabila banned political parties outright in some parts of Congo during his eight-month sweep across the country.

South Africa's President Nelson Mandela, who unsuccessfully tried to arrange a peace settlement between Kabila and Mobutu, said the new government's policies were understandable.

"I think that dealing with a country which has been under dictatorship for more than three decades, it is quite reasonable for him to ensure that law and order is stabilized before he can say 'I want all political parties to function,'" Mandela said in Cape Town.

Two visiting US congressmen, Donald Payne and Tom Campbell, agreed. "It is not inappropriate in a tense time for a government to insist on a period of calm," said Campbell, a Republican from California.

"For 32 years you had a person who reigned and robbed and stole," said Payne, a Democrat from New Jersey. "In one month, people are expecting miracles. I don't think it's unreasonable for the government to say at the present time we should have a suspension temporarily on demonstrations."

## Woman pilot starts final leg of 'Earhart flight'

HONOLULU (AP) — The millionaire pilot trying to complete Amelia Earhart's last flight took off on the final — and longest — leg of her globe-circling journey.

About 15 supporters yelled "Aloha" as Linda Finch flew out under sunny skies and light sea breezes for the 15.5-hour flight to Oakland, California, where she began her journey March 17.

"My strongest thought is that I'm so close to home. Amelia must have been so disappointed, she got so close," Finch said shortly before takeoff from Honolulu

International Airport.

Finch was due to complete the nearly 3,840-km trip from Hawaii to California yesterday.

Her plane is the same model Earhart used in her 1937 ill-fated attempt to circumnavigate the world around its widest point — the equator.

Earhart, who was attempting to become the first person to fly around the world, mysteriously disappeared on her way to Howland Island in the South Pacific on July 2, 1937. She said the trip's final leg is the most dan-

gerous of her 10-week, 41,600-km voyage because it covers the most distance and her plane is overloaded with fuel.

Her twin-engine Lockheed Electra 10-E aircraft is carrying extra fuel so she won't be left short if she runs into head winds while flying half-way across the Pacific.

Tail winds were expected to help her make good time "because they kind of push her," said Navy Commander Phil Renaud. "If she were going against head winds, it would increase use of fuel."

## Twister kills dozens, sucks up property 'like vacuum'

JARRELL, Texas (AP) — Rescuers scissored swampy fields yesterday looking for nearly two dozen people unaccounted for after a tornado devastated this central Texas town, killing at least 27.

The storm leveled about 50 homes and left telephone poles snapped, bits of clothing hanging from fences and a tractor-trailer upside down in a field.

Dead cattle lay side-by-side, and where the Double Creek Estates once stood, there was nothing.

"It's not there anymore," sheriff's deputy R.B. Raby said. The state's deadliest tornadoes in a decade ripped through four counties in central Texas — from Waco to Austin, Jarrell, a town of 1,000 about 64 km north of Austin, the state capital, was hit hardest, with the debris so scattered that even compiling a death toll was difficult yesterday.

Yesterday the medical examiner and a hospital said they had only 27 bodies from Jarrell.

But 23 people were unaccounted for in Jarrell and five more were missing in Cedar Park, where a grocery store collapsed, injuring at least eight people.

At daybreak, up to 150 rescue workers began slogging through fields with water up to knee-deep to look for body parts or survivors around Jarrell.

Stunned residents covered in mud wandered around in the rain, crying and consoling each other.

address to the nation that drew little enthusiasm.

"France cannot change course at any time without taking serious risks," Chirac said in a statement. "A change of direction would steer inevitably toward confusion and a weakening of our country."

Chirac told his cabinet that the work done by outgoing Prime Minister Alain Juppe, who has announced he will resign whatever the election outcome, had enabled the country to face the next stage of its development "in good conditions."

An emotional Juppe later told a rally in Bordeaux, the southwestern city where he serves as mayor, that he would continue to fight for a center-right victory.

"Convince your fellow citizens

that Socialism would be an open road to decadence in France," he said to warm applause.

Seeking to lure back disenchanted voters, Chirac told his television audience he had heard their message but urged them not to return to "the socialist ideas of yesterday."

Most analysts said his appeal was a feeble, rather than dramatic, attempt to give his government a new lease on life.

"Is that all there is?" headlined the daily *France-Soir* over a picture of Chirac in a Superman costume.

What the president desperately needs is a friendly parliament for the final five years of his seven-year presidential term.

His gamble of dissolving the National Assembly, with its strong

centre-right majority, and holding an election nearly 10 months early to strengthen his hand as France heads into European monetary union, has already gone badly wrong.

"Let us take care not to compromise everything at the moment when we are reaping the first fruits of our efforts," Chirac said in his televised speech.

"Chirac: The Untraceable Elan" quipped the front page of the left daily *Liberation*. The president called for a "new elan" when he first called the elections.

Chirac sought a mandate to forge ahead with austerity and free-market reforms aimed at preparing France for the euro, the single European currency planned for 1999.

(Agencies)

## Chirac warns of risks, French left eyes power

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## Tips on duty-free shopping:

## Grab the cheese, skip the llama fat

By DANIEL ROGOV

Considering that within the next three months, an estimated 27 percent of the population of the country will be traveling abroad, this is as good a time as any to respond to the many readers who have asked about food- and wine-buying at duty-free shops in airports around the world.

There are certain dangers in such shopping. The wines sold in duty-free shops have often been stored under far-from-ideal conditions, many truly inferior food items sold are displayed only to capitalize on the naivete of many tourists, and some of the cigars and cigarettes offered have been kept in overheated warehouses so long that they are dry and tasteless by the time they are sold. Even worse, duty-free prices are sometimes even higher than the prices in the stores of whatever cities we have been visiting.

Despite these potential drawbacks, there are good gastronomic buys to be found both at the duty-free shops and delicatessens at international airports. Following are a few hints on what to buy and what to avoid in such airports.

## BEST BUYS

**Israel, Ben-Gurion:** The walk-in cigar humidor has a world-class selection of cigars. Prices of cigars from Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Holland are among the most reasonable you will find. (Buy before you take your flight and pick up your purchases on return.)

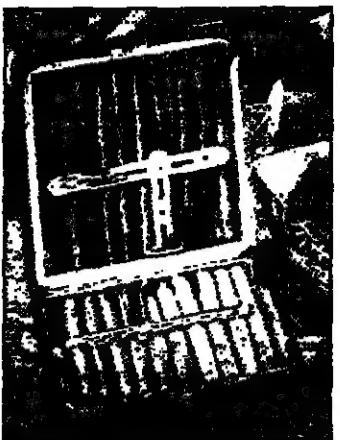
## IN EUROPE

**Paris, Charles de Gaulle:** At the shops of Androuet-Faugeron you will find an extraordinarily good selection of dried mushrooms as well as a superb collection of classic French cheeses, all at reasonable prices.

**London, Heathrow:** Berry Brothers and Rudd, one of the finest wine dealers in the world, has an airport shop here, and its

wines have been stored in ideal conditions.

**Athens:** The delicatessen shop in the international departure terminal offers one of the few



Cigars: a great buy at Ben-Gurion Airport; outrageous prices at JFK, New York.

opportunities you will ever have to buy genuine Hymettus Honey, a honey so rich that the Greeks believe that when the bees who make it die they go to Mount Olympus to live with the gods.

Also purchase the rock-hard kephallateri cheese which can be eaten plain, fried as you would halumi cheese or used as an interesting change from Parmesan with pasta and salads.

**Frankfurt:** At the delicatessen, stock up on excellent fresh knackwurst, bratwurst, or any of the other sausages sold.

At the duty free, purchase white wines from the Rhine Valley at excellent prices.

**Rome, Leonardo da Vinci:** Buy as much Parmesan

cheese as you can. Also definitely worth buying are the white truffles from Tuscany.

**Geneva:** This is the best place in the world to buy black Perigord truffles. Buy them fresh when in season, in oil when they are not. If your budget is limited, buy the excellent truffle paste or truffle essence.

Also visit the fine Davidoff tobacco shop to stock up on cigarettes and cigars.

**Amsterdam:** Best duty-free shop in Europe for buying high quality liqueurs, Cognac, Armagnac, Scotch Whiskey, and Irish Whiskey.

**Brussels:** Stock up on any of the eight excellent varieties of coffees produced by Rombouts. If you are among your favorite treats, you will find fine fresh or smoked examples here. Also great prices on gin, vodka and tequila.

**Ireland, Shannon:** Best variety of smoked salmon you will find anywhere and at remarkably reasonable prices.

**Vienna:** The gourmet shop here offers quails, trout, rabbits, and wild-bird cutlets both uncooked or cooked in aspic, all of which will be specially wrapped for transportation. Also, buy a few bottles of the young white wines known as heuriger.

There is nothing prestigious or expensive about these wines, but they make for delightful drinking.

**Lisbon:** At the duty-free you will find an excellent selection of vintage Port wines at quite good prices.



Wines are stored in ideal conditions at Heathrow's Berry Brothers and Rudd.

## IN THE US

**Boston:** Live lobsters, oysters and clams are great buys here and will be packaged so that they will remain alive until you arrive home. Do not pass up the opportunity to purchase some of the exquisite maple syrup from Vermont.

**New York, John F. Kennedy:** The aged New York State cheddar cheese sold at the delicatessen shop here is exquisite

## American cheeses

**Atlanta:** The Smithfield hams sold here (from Virginia and Kentucky) are of the highest possible quality. If possible, buy a whole ham. It will last forever. Also be sure to visit the Peachtree Bookstore, where you will find a remarkable selection of wine and food books and CD-Roms.

## WORST BUYS

**Cork:** Kamikaze liqueur is a specialty of this charming Greek island. Unfortunately, this liqueur is one of the world's worst alcoholic beverages.

**Nicer:** When the people who wrote the Bible used the word "abomination," they must have been anticipating the dined bouillabaisse that is sold at this airport.

**Antalya:** Do not be fooled by the cheap prices of the cigarettes, chocolates, and alcoholic beverages sold at the duty-free stores here. There is a good chance that they are cheap because the labels are counterfeit and whatever you buy will prove undrinkable, unsmokable or inedible.

**Jamaica:** Under no circumstances should you buy Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee at the airport here. The probability is that the coffee beans you are buying never even saw the shadow of the famous Blue Mountain.

**Tasmania:** I've never figured out what the famed "dragon meat" sold here really consists of. Whatever it is, it has a little charm as the chocolate-coated suits that are also sold.

**Warsaw and Moscow:** Every great brand name of vodka is available at the duty-free shops at these two airports, but every one of them costs more than it does in the U.S.

**Rio de Janeiro:** Rejoice! Is the national dish of Brazil. But the thinned version sold at the airport is so thin that it is not really Brazilian food. Be disappointed to learn that.

**Limbo:** Please do not know whether anyone has ever actually bought the limbo liqueur on display here. If they have, I have no idea what they have done with it.



A 30-ml. bottle of Yves Saint Laurent's Yvresse retails at NIS 179.

## FLAIR

## Scental themes

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Notwithstanding the fact that all public buildings and most workplaces in Israel are air-conditioned, the onset of summer makes us doubly conscious of the need to use deodorants, moisturizers, body lotions, colognes and other fragrances and skin protectors.

One of the significant changes in Israel as we approach the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the state is that boarding a bus in summer is no longer a nauseating experience. Instead of being assailed by a blast of collective body odors, we experience a variety of pleasant aromas emanating from both men and women.

A lot of the credit for this can be attributed to commercial television and bus-stop posters which spell out the message that one's sex appeal has a lot to do with the way one smells.

Also, the huge influx of imported cosmetic products and the tempting availability of testers have proved too much for most Israelis to resist.

Fragrances are increasingly carrying the signatures of big-name fashion designers even though none of these designers dream up the actual formula. But they do have some idea of what they want and the perfume makers follow through accordingly. Thus it comes as no surprise that many of the summer scents have a slight - or sometimes distinctive - citrus flavor to accentuate the citrus oils which dominate the summer fashion palette.

Issey Miyake's L'Eau D'Issey toilet water has always had a hint of citrus. Aware that women

want a small, slim phial of perfume to put into their purses, Miyake is marketing a five-in-one, which consists of a slim purse spray plus four refills.

Fellow Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto has launched his first signature perfume, sold in a long, candle-shaped bottle. Sensual and subtle, its dominant notes are vanilla, sandalwood, musk, azalea and coumarin. The price for a 15-ml bottle of perfume is NIS 489, which is why a 50-ml bottle of Eau de Toilette is a much better investment at NIS 229.

If Yvresse is familiar on first sniff, it's because it is actually a year-old product under a new name. When Yves Saint Laurent introduced Champagne some 12 months ago, the producers of the French effervescent brew were so cheesed off that they took him to court and won their case. Unable to call his new fragrance Champagne, Saint Laurent settled for something based on his own name. Its slightly acidic fruit-and-flower fragrance is evocative of an orchard at night. A 30-ml bottle of Eau de Toilette retails at NIS 179.

Now saturating the European market with clothes and cosmetics, Calvin Klein is scattering on Israel as well, and his LK Eau de Toilette in its solid black masculine bottle has a fresh, tangy, sweetish scent not unlike that of aftershave, but not as strong. It's supposed to be a unisex fragrance and sells for NIS 145 for 100 ml.

A really good buy is Loushi by Jade. Sophisticated with that certain cachet one associates with quiet luxury, it is not too heavy, yet has a lingering presence and is attractively priced at NIS 105 for a 100-ml bottle of toilet water.

## CAVEAT EMPTOR

By RUTHIE BLUM

A few years ago, I bought a 10-year-old Volvo station wagon. Though this seemed to me to be the height of luxury at the time, my insurance agent scoffed at the possibility of my "wasting" money on insuring the vehicle beyond the mandatory insurance. According to this agent, not only was this car totally undrinkable and useless to thieves, but it was such a jumpy, that insuring it would cost a fortune.

I immediately latched onto this advice, and I left feeling I'd saved a fortune. However, the "useless jumpy" was stolen about four years later.

Recently, I received a complaint by L.B. of Jerusalem, who had the opposite experience

## Assurance on insurance

with his insurance agent. "It appears," he wrote, "that no insurance agent is willing to issue the mandatory insurance unless one also buys liability insurance."

In a letter L.B. sent to his insurance agent canceling his automobile insurance, he wrote: "It seems a real shame that after 10 years as your customer, you are not willing to give me only the mandatory insurance. It seems to me very unfair, if not illegal, to coerce your customer to buy insurance he doesn't want."

L.B. wants to know whether it is illegal and whether this might have to do with the small amount of money earned by the agent from mandatory insurance.

According to Uri Yamin, director of general insurance at the office of the Insurance

Supervisor's Department of the Treasury: Paragraph 57 of the Supervision of Insurance Transactions Law (1981) states that "No insurance company or agent will make the taking out of insurance in one branch conditional upon taking out insurance in another branch." Regarding how much money agents earn on mandatory automobile insurance, Yamin claims that the "commissions paid by insurance companies to insurance agents are given to negotiations between the companies and the agents. The Supervisor of Insurance Transactions does not usually interfere [with these negotiations] or with the commissions received for [different] branches [of insurance]."

Furthermore, it is perfectly above board to take out one kind of insurance (e.g. auto) with

one agent and/or company, and another kind (e.g. homeowner's) with a different agent and/or company.

Anyone wishing to lodge a complaint, either regarding this specific paragraph of the Insurance Law, or about any other aspect of insurance transactions - whether against the policy of insurance agents or insurance companies - can contact the ombudsman's office of the Insurance Supervisor at the Ministry of Finance at 1 Rehov Kaplan, 91131 Jerusalem, or POB 883, 91131 Jerusalem. Telephone: (02) 531-7111.

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## Powder keg of corruption

It is no secret that the mood among the Palestinian population these days is in general somber, perhaps even bordering on hopelessness. There has been ample documentation in the Israeli press of the growing despair evinced in the streets of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in sharp contrast to the optimism of the immediate post-Oslo signing period, along with the attendant threat that this despair could easily turn to anger directed against Israel.

Most of the Israeli media reporting on this issue have usually connected the Palestinian public's mood to Israeli actions, such as building on Har Homa, expanding settlements, and the impositions of closure on the territories of the Palestinian Authority. There is no doubt that these actions are not popular with the Palestinians, but it is only recently that some attention has been given to what is the true source of Palestinian frustration and the main topic of concern on the streets of Gaza, Ramallah, and Hebron: the growing proportions of corruption in the PA and the monopolistic economy of nepotism and racketeering which has characterized the PA since Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Gaza from Tunis.

It is virtually impossible to find a Palestinian who will fully admit this for the record. But when the television cameras have been turned off, and the tape recorders have been put away, Palestinian sources will admit the corruption has reached such proportions that the only way to describe what is happening is to say that Arafat is simply robbing his people in order to enrich a small group of well-connected bureaucrats.

Some of the facts have been revealed by the media and others in a report issued by Palestinian auditor Jarar Kidwa, showing that 37 percent of the PA's budget has been wasted, some of it going into private accounts instead of the Finance Ministry. Press accounts have reported on the lavish lifestyles senior PA officials close to Arafat have been allowing themselves. They can afford it, because only they are permitted to share in the wealth being produced by the Al-Bahr corporation, the main arm of a huge monopoly operation that has taken over the real estate, entertainment, computers, advertising, publishing, and construction industries in the PA, to name only a few.

The Palestinian Legislative Council has been making efforts to play the role it was supposed to - that of a watchdog reviewing the executive's actions and curbing corruption. But it has so far proven to be impotent against Arafat's actions; discussing the issues but unable even to summon witnesses to testify before it on the extent of the problem. Lately there has been an increase in attempts to prevent the council from expressing its criticisms publicly. The most notorious example of this was the arrest and weeklong detention of Daoud Kuttab, a journalist who dared to broadcast council deliberations on PA corruption.

The monopolistic economy which has developed in the PA has made it an anomaly going against international economic trends. The latter half of the twentieth century has provided enough examples of economically winning and losing countries for a consensus to have developed on the proper prescription for "jump-starting" poor economies. This prescription includes a competitive market economy, honest accountability at the government level, and investment in human capital through education and health. Disparate countries from Chile to Uganda have been successfully applying this formula.

But the PA has gone the other way - ignoring the laws of economics - and the result has been the impoverishment of the Palestinian economy. A casual observer in Gaza or Ramallah might think otherwise, noting a large increase in construction, but the local residents know better: the new buildings are being built for the benefit of the very small class of well-connected people who have made themselves tremendously wealthy. The statistical confirmation of this came in a recent UN survey, which concluded that per capita income in Gaza has fallen by as much as 39 percent since Oslo.

When the Oslo accord was signed in 1993, the authors of the agreement stressed that one of its main components was that it would bring economic relief to the Palestinian territories, by connecting the Palestinian Authority to a "New Middle East" and a growing global economy. A wealthier Palestinian population, it was argued, would be less likely to support armed terrorist actions. By this standard, the Oslo process has failed to produce what it promised.

Many Palestinians have taken to blaming Israel and other countries for helping Arafat to sustain his regime. British Minister of State Derek Fatchett, on a one day fact-finding mission, stated earlier this week that the Palestinian Authority must improve its financial accountability. This refrain has been repeated since the World Bank's original plan for the PA's economic growth stressed "transparency and accountability." Yet the truth is that the EU has consistently backed down from demanding that Arafat meet these standards, continuing to supply donor funds despite the obvious corruption. When put to the test, European statements on Palestinian financial accountability have remained empty words.

As for Israel, it is by now well-known that the government is depositing money collected in taxes for the Palestinian Authority directly into a private account being kept by Arafat. At the same time, the government, which came into office critical of the Oslo agreements, lacks any strategic conception of where it wants to go in the peace process. Thus by default, it is falling into a pattern of sustaining Arafat's corruption on a day-to-day basis, while frustration is building into a powder keg in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.



ILLUSTRATION BY

## Court of corruption

Israeli dignitaries have been queuing up to court Yasser Arafat, myth-maker and manipulator supreme. They come flocking to impress upon him - almost beg - that he should be "reasonable" in the quest for peace.

But like a cat playing with a mouse, mouthing lies as truth, Arafat outmaneuvers them all as he struts the world stage winning the battle of psychological warfare hands down.

Back home, the eyes of Israeli politicians open wide in astonishment, even as they swallow Arafat's words hook, line and sinker.

There was such a moment last Friday night on TV's Channel 2, when listeners were presented with the sensational "scoop" revealed to Gesher's Maxim Levy and three other MKs - Yehuda Lankri, also from Gesher, the Third Way's Emanuel Zissman and Roman Bronfman from Yisrael Ba'Aliya - who had been allowed into Arafat's regal presence in the Gaza Strip.

Twenty years ago, Arafat told them, when Menachem Begin was negotiating with Anwar Sadat over Sinai, he assured the Egyptian leader that he would support Arafat in creating a Palestinian state.

What was the purpose of this revelation now, pulled out of the hat for the first time in two decades?

Arafat's timing was brilliant - the eve of the summit meeting between Yitzhak Rabin and Hosni Mubarak at Sharm el-Sheikh.

The not-so-subtle message? "If Begin, the great Likud leader, was ready to give me a Palestinian state, why shouldn't Netanyahu be ready?"

Knowing how prone our prime minister is to caving into Mubarak-Arafat demands, this was a cunning ploy, designed to apply just a little more pressure on the Israeli premier with the aim of squeezing out yet another concession.

Did Begin promise Arafat a Palestinian state via Sadat?

Shmuel Katz, who worked hand-in-hand with Begin for many years, says "Begin would never have done any such thing. The only time anyone even dared

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG

suggest such an idea to him was in 1977, when a journalist asked if he would consider negotiating with Arafat, or even meeting him.

"Replied a shocked Begin: 'Me negotiate, even talk to Arafat? What - are you asking me to commit suicide?'" Adds Yehiel Kadishai, Begin's most trusted aide: "My first reaction was to call Arafat a pathological liar. But he's worse."

"The huzzah of it! What man with a scrap of honor puts false words into the mouths of the dead, knowing that they are gross falsehoods?"

We are amazed that out of four MKs, not even one thought to tell Arafat that Begin surely would never have promised something so totally alien to his way of thinking.

They might also have challenged the PLO chief: "Why didn't you seize Begin's offer with

**Lying, cheating, torture, murder - these are the hallmarks of Arafat's regime**

both hands?"

Lies are one thing; they are, after all, the stock-in-trade of many politicians. But Arafat doesn't stop at lies. As head of the PLO in the past he ordered the slaying of hundreds of civilians, Israelis and Jews, in the West.

And in March, Prime Minister Netanyahu warned that Arafat had given terrorists the green light to strike at civilian targets. A few days afterwards, a suicide bomber blew himself up, killing three women in a Tel Aviv cafe.

The tone Arafat has set pervades his entire Palestinian Authority. Lying, cheating, torture, murder - these are the hallmarks of his administration.

RECENT headlines focused on the \$325 million - about 40 percent of the PA's budget - that has been diverted to the pockets and

private banking accounts of Arafat's top brass.

That isn't the worst of it. When Yitzhak Rabin was prime minister, his own security chiefs gave him a full account of the PA's widespread corruption. They told him that the percentage of funds being diverted into private Swiss as well as Tel Aviv banking accounts was very much more than 40 percent.

In addition, hundreds of millions of shekels that Israel has contributed in one form or another, to the PA to help create an infrastructure in Gaza and the Arafat-controlled areas have also vanished into thin air. It amounts to a heist that would evoke envy from the Mafia.

Arafat's ruthless, despotic reign over the Palestinians is turning the stomach even of one of his heretofore most enthusiastic champions, Daoud Kuttab.

Kuttab, who is - happily for him - also an American citizen, was one of the driving forces of the intifada. A print and broadcast journalist, his widely-voiced criticism of all matters Israeli was savage.

Yet, knowing the meaning of democracy, Kuttab was outraged by Arafat's riding roughshod over the elected deputies of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

When he tried to screen a film of a council meeting, Arafat banned it. Then he threw Kuttab into prison. Strong protests from US authorities led to his grudging release after a week.

The greatest irony of all is that Arafat complains persistently about the economic hardship of ordinary Palestinians. Of course he blames Israel for this, and demands that Jerusalem pay ever-increasing sums of money into PA coffers.

Perhaps he and his privileged buddies might first begin disgorging their plundered loot locked away in private accounts. Then they might start using it for the purpose it was intended - building schools and housing, and providing Palestinians with some basic amenities.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

## Report card

LARRY DERFNER

Unfortunately for us Israelis, the head of a democratic state doesn't only run the political affairs of his country; he also, more than anyone else, sets the nation's moral tone, shapes its human spirit. By virtue of having been elected, he reflects some dominant characteristics in the people's personality. Once he takes office, and everything he says and does carries such authority, he amplifies those characteristics.

Today, one year after Benjamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister, what is the spirit of the Israeli people? What qualities of the national personality has he brought to the fore?

The negative ones. He's a hard-eyed individual, and he's helped make us a more hard-eyed people.

What does he speak to in Israelis? Their hearts? Their hopes? Their better natures? Clearly not.

He speaks to their bellies, their spleens. He's the champion of everybody in this country who has a chip on his shoulder, who wants to get somebody - get the Arabs, get the Left, get the media, get the elites.

He gets them, alright. He can't give the people anything good - not peace, not hope - but he sure can give hell to the enemy, foreign and domestic. Bibi, King of Israel.

Remember what he said right after getting elected? "I intend to be prime minister of all the people." Has anybody ever aggravated

**A year of Netanyahu. A year of cynicism, terminal suspicion, arrogance and worship of power**

ed the divisions in this country so deliberately as he has?

In the last days before the election, he played the race card: "Netanyahu - Good for the Jews." (Subtext: "Shimon Peres - Good for the Arabs.")

After a couple days of being prime minister of all the people, Netanyahu made it clear that he had won the election not by 1 percent, but by 11 percent. The votes of Israeli Arabs didn't count. A million Arab citizens of Israel disappeared, and they have not been seen or heard from since.

Throughout his campaign, and especially in the decisive debate with Peres, Netanyahu aimed his message at people's fear.

Israelis are afraid to wait at a bus stop, afraid to go anywhere in this country, he said, over and over.

It worked. But now, as prime minister, he doesn't want to tell Israelis that they're afraid, even when they are, so he aims his message at other nerves in the body politic: Resentment. Paranoia.

The Left is ganging up with the media and the elites against the people, he warns. They're out to get us, he says, they're out to get me.

Such a harassed, unfairly-victimised fellow is Netanyahu. Likewise his partners - Avigdor Lieberman, Arye Deri, and, if he lasts, Tzahi Hanegbi.

Harassed because they're Likud, or because they're Sephardim, or because they're Russian, or because they're religious.

THE prime minister speaks to and for Israelis' self-pity. He's put together a broad popular coalition of grudge-bearers, and he leads it along with some of the most powerful people in this country.

Netanyahu, Lieberman, Deri, Hanegbi - they're a new breed of leadership: The Oppressed Elite.

Netanyahu embodies, and thus encourages, some of the worst features in the Israeli character - cynicism, terminal suspicion, arrogance, Jewish supremacism, worship of power.

The world is a jungle, he tells us - it always has been and always will be. The strong eat the weak. Always expect the worst of people, especially the Arabs.

Remember what Yitzhak Shamir said: "The sea is the same sea, and the Arabs are the same Arabs." Never apologize - what for? - never forgive, and never forget.

After a year of this, is there a dot of idealism left in the country? Is there any hope that our life in this part of the world will change for the better, that we and our neighbors will soften our hearts just a little bit and begin to breathe freely? Any belief that within Israel, we will become a little more civilized with each other, a little happier?

It's nowhere to be seen. For a year the bad blood has been rising, and we have three more years of it ahead.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAREDI BASHING

Sir, - Your recent five-part series on *teshuvah*, written almost entirely from the perspective of Professor Dan Mahler, a leader of the Association to Fight Haredi Domination, represents some of the poorest-quality and biased journalism I have yet to see in my almost 20 years as a professional journalist. This serious and offensive haredi-bashing only began to make sense in part five, when your readers were informed that, surprise, Mahler himself has a son who became observant 13 years ago, a fact that Mahler admits still "rattles" him today.

MEIRA SWIRSKY

Jerusalem.

Sir, - As new immigrants from England, one thing in Israel that makes us sad is the widening gap between secular and religious Jews and the way the matter seems to be fanned by the press.

Reading Dan Izenberg's articles on the *teshuvah* movement was an example of how to promote tension, fear and intolerance. They made us think of the many young Jews in India and Nepal turning to the wisdom of other religions. It reminded us of Jews for Jesus, the drug culture, the parents who sadly lose touch with their children for any of several reasons.

MOSHE AND RUTH COHN  
Jerusalem.

Sir, - I was surprised to see that *The Jerusalem Post* has fallen to the low level of haredi-bashing. Although this sport is popular amongst other Israeli newspapers, it has always been commendable that *The Post* refrained from falling to this level.

Your article on the *teshuvah* movement of May 16 made it seem like a dangerous cult which should be avoided at all costs. It is in fact a group of people with a love of both Judaism and the Jewish people who want to bring Jews closer to their roots. They use no coercion and the religion is by no means additive.

I feel that your newspaper did a major injustice to the *teshuvah* movement with its negative reporting.

CHAIM COHN

Jerusalem.

Sir, - How dare you use the word convert about a *hazer bashuva*. It is a real insult. Judaism does not look to recruit people. It only looks to help those Jews (read Jews born to a Jewish mother) learn what Judaism is about. Unfortunately, in our secular society of today, Jews do not know who they are or what they represent. It is time to add some basic Judaism to our

school system.  
RIFKA MONDERER  
Petah Tikva.

Sir, - Thanks to the activities of the Left, two generations of Israelis know nothing about their roots, their religion, or even the reason for living in this country. That someone is taking the trouble to reverse this trend is to be applauded, not denigrated.

CONNIE KACENELBOGEN  
Holon.

Sir, - The *teshuvah* movement is about a quarter of a century in existence. The series, just published, with its highly slanted direction toward presenting a devastating cult, is a disservice to the tens of thousands of people over the past 25 years who have chosen an observant lifestyle and enjoy successful careers as Torah-true Jews.

In my own career of 40 years in the American rabbinate, I created special classes and programs for the parents of children who chose to fill the spiritual void in their lives. Conflicts were dealt with in group sessions and private consultations. Every effort was made to keep the family unit intact. Many parents made mid-life changes and joined their children.

RABBI JAMES I. GORDON  
Jerusalem.

## ATTRIBUTIONS

Sir, - I have always understood that, if a newspaper or any other publication prints a substantial quote from a book (not just a few words or half a sentence), especially if that book is copyrighted, the source must be named. Am I wrong, or were you simply not aware that the entire segment in *Postscripts* of May 19, "Odd lan-

guage, this English of ours," with the name "Esther Hecht" in italics at the end (presumably the person who submitted it) is lifted from a book by Richard Lederer entitled *Crazy English* published by Pocket Books, first paperback printing 1990, copyrighted 1989, 1990?

EDITH DINAR

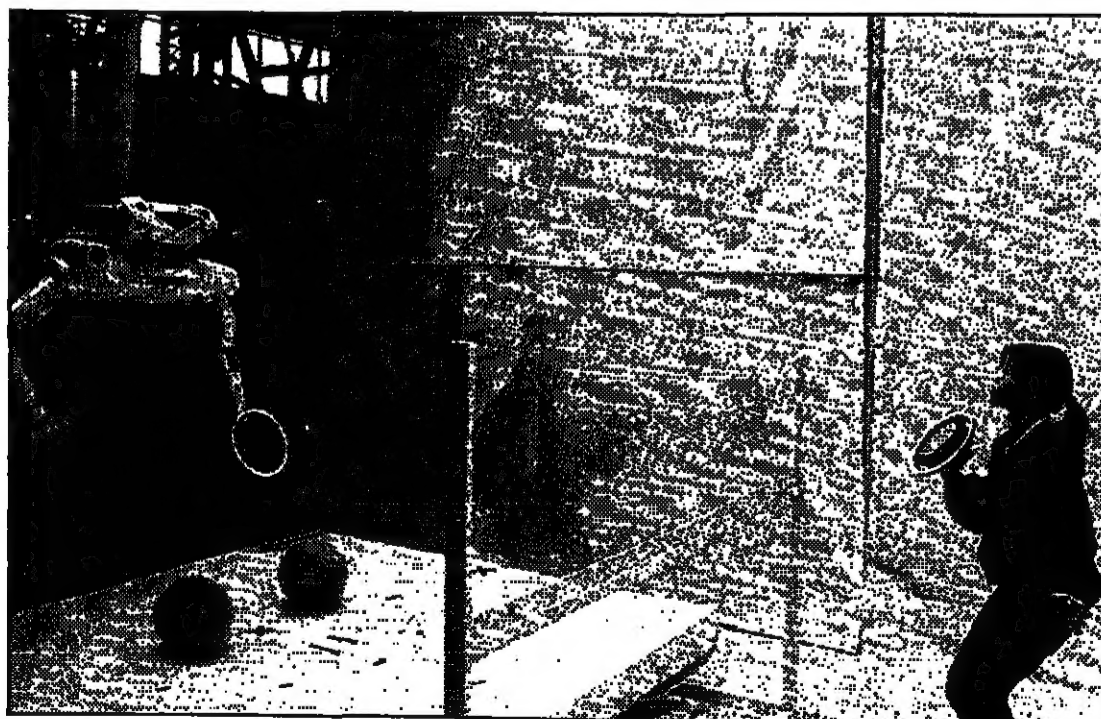
Bat Yam.

Credit is not due Mr. Lederer, because the material is not his either. These quirks of the language have been accumulating for decades, originating from the pen of none other than the ubiquitous Anon.

The item was inadvertently attributed to Esther Hecht.

- Ed., *Postscripts*

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



If Garry Kasparov was looking for a way to relax between chess games with Big Blue, he might have tried this: robot volleyball. Equipped with two small cameras as eyes, the robot, named "Tomorrow," can process 60 images per second. It can perceive and react to object movement, and recognizes humans by face.

(AP)

## POSTSCRIPT

A WEALTHY dentist and his family have been charged after allegedly employing their own personal shoplifter to steal designer clothes and crystal.

Gregory Dick, a prominent 58-year-old dentist in Roseville, Minnesota, his wife, son and daughter were charged with receiving more than \$250,000 in stolen goods over the past few years that included Armani suits,

Polo sweaters and Waterford crystal.

Police marched into the family's \$450,000 home after arranging a sting operation with suspected shoplifter Gregory Thomas, 37, who had been caught earlier in a department store.

Thomas went to the family's house with \$6,000 worth of merchandise from the store, for which the family paid him \$800

in cash. Dick's wife responded to the arrest by saying: "OK, you caught us red-handed, now what?"

Police said the family gave Thomas detailed lists of what they wanted stolen, including clothing sizes. Thomas pleaded guilty to theft charges. He told police the family had provided him with money for bail after previous arrests.







## BUSINESS

in brief

### Israel, US to hold trade talks next week

Senior trade officials from Israel and the US will meet next week in Washington DC to discuss trade between the two countries, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday. At the meeting, Israeli representatives will raise several issues, including the recent one-sided changes the US made regarding the free-trade agreement, current US-government tendering policies that hurt Israeli companies' chances to win government bids and the integration of the Israel-Canada, Canada-US, and US-Israel free-trade agreements. The Americans are also expected to raise grievances regarding the current level of US imports Israel is purchasing. *Jennifer Friedlin*

### Coffee hits three-year high

Coffee futures prices soared yesterday, approaching new 20-year highs amid speculation Colombian supplies are nearly depleted at a time when frost could threaten Brazilian crops. On other commodity markets, platinum and palladium futures rose sharply as world supplies tightened amid a miners strike in South Africa and continued Russian shipping delays. Wheat futures fell sharply. Coffee futures prices jumped 6.7 percent - the biggest one-day gain since July 11, 1994, on the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange in New York - amid concern about dwindling supplies from Colombia and Brazil, the world's largest producers of quality arabica coffee beans. *AP*

### Jordan reschedules \$450m. in debt

Jordan has rescheduled \$450 million worth of debts that should have been paid between June 1997 and February 1999, a cabinet official said yesterday in Amman. Samir Mutaweh, state minister for information, told reporters that \$400m. is owed to Western governments and the remainder to non-government agencies in the West. He declined to give details. Finance Minister Suleiman Hafez said the rescheduling agreement reached in Paris last week will ease pressure on the balance of payments and enable the cash-strapped kingdom to proceed with economic reforms. With some of the loans, the term was extended to 22 years, with a 10-year grace period. Other loans were rescheduled under export credits guaranteed by the Jordanian government. *AP*

## Clal first-quarter net income down 66%

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Clal (Israel) Ltd. yesterday reported a 66 percent drop in first-quarter net income to NIS 22.7 million from NIS 66.9m. in the corresponding period last year. Revenues for the quarter fell to NIS 1.3 billion from NIS 1.45b. Clal (Israel), the nation's second-largest holding company after Koor, posted a decrease in revenues in its industry and trade and services holdings. In its insurance sector, the first quarter showed

improvement, with net income up from NIS 19.4m. to NIS 22.8m. The financial holding took a step toward the black, with first-quarter net losses down from NIS 5.1m. to NIS 1.6m. The tourism holdings also reported an improvement, with losses shrinking from NIS 1.4m. to NIS 800,000. Earlier this year Leon Recanati officially took over as chairman from Avi Olshansky, and Yitzhak Kaul formally took over from David Wainshal as president and CEO.

# Leumi generates NIS 1.15b. in largest-ever TASE offering

Government expects to raise NIS 3 billion from bank sales this year

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The government's sale this week on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange of shares and warrants comprising 15 percent of Bank Leumi was judged a clear success by financial circles in Tel Aviv yesterday. In all, the offering of shares and warrants, which was the largest yet to have been launched on the TASE, generated an income of NIS 1.15 billion. NIS 600 million of this was in

cash and NIS 260m. in warrants which are to be exercised by the end of the year, while the remainder is scheduled to be exercised by August next year.

Once fully exercised, the share offering will have shrunk the government's stake in Israel's second largest bank to 66%.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor was exceptionally pleased with the results of the offering and said he expected it to accelerate the banking sector's privatization process.

In an official statement, the Finance Ministry said it expects to raise a total of NIS 3b. this year from the sale of bank shares, including NIS 500m. from the spinning off of non-financial holdings currently held by government-owned commercial banks.

That forecast does not include the prospective sale of the controlling share in the country's largest financial institution, Bank Hapoalim, which is being tendered out directly to bidders. Treasury

officials hope that sale will take place by next year and ultimately generate an additional NIS 3b.

Israel's banking sector was almost completely nationalized in the aftermath of the 1983 share-manipulation scandal, which brought down the stock market and traumatized the nation's financial world.

The current government has chosen to initially focus its privatization efforts on the banking sector, since much of the preparatory

work was already done during the previous government's term in office and because it is the least socially and politically explosive part of the public sector.

Shortly after assuming office last year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he prefers "to leave for later" moves which would compel such large-scale employers as the Israel Electric Corporation to compete with private companies or be taken over by them.



### Europeans demonstrate for work

A woman holds a flower in her teeth as she stands in front of a banner reading 'Trade Union' during a demonstration by some 10,000 people in Brussels yesterday. The action, organized by the Brussels-based European Trade Union Confederation, was planned to step up pressure on governments to create a social Europe in parallel with monetary union. *(Reuters)*

## Meltzer announces resignation as Bezeq chairman

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq chairman Gurion Meltzer yesterday announced he is resigning from his post effective June 15. No reason was disclosed.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said she regrets that his resignation will come six months ahead of the original expiration of Meltzer's term in office.

Meltzer's decision follows the resignations of six other executives and 15 of 200 department heads since former Bezeq president Yitzhak Kaul's left in November to head the Clal Israel holding company.

Meltzer, 67, was said by management to have an "excellent relationship" with the company's new director-general, Ami Erel.

A former director-general of Tadiran and director of planning and development at Koor Industries, Meltzer joined Bezeq two-and-a-half years ago. He will also leave his membership on the board of directors of Bezeq and the company's various subsidiaries.

Livnat, who must nominate a replacement, thanked Meltzer for his cooperation during the time they worked together. She praised him for his professionalism and contribution to Bezeq's advances.

No names of possible candidates for the job were mentioned yesterday.

Meanwhile, Erel said at a symposium on international telecommunications yesterday that Bezeq management is working on a new organizational structure for the company. It will be presented within two months to the board of directors.

"Even now it's clear that Bezeq must move from an organization that measures itself in units of implementation and rigid geographical districts to a marketing organization that is close to its customers and looks at sales, income, costs and profits," he said.

Government regulation of the company has been a straitjacket, he said, and makes it difficult to compete with private companies. Bezeq will finish the strategic makeover of the company by December 1998, he said.

## Israeli trade officials in Qatar quietly mark first anniversary

By SEAN EVERS

DOHA, Qatar - Israeli diplomats based in Qatar quietly marked the first anniversary of the opening of Israel's Trade Representation Office here.

Qatar said it froze all official relations with Israel last November because of the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We not only feel like pioneers; we are pioneers," said Ilan Segov, Israel's deputy head of mission in Doha. "We are the first ones to come and make contact with people with whom until recently we have had a great deal of dispute, and hopefully more people will follow."

Israel and Qatar signed an agreement in April 1996 to open trade offices in each other's capitals - to develop trade and political links - during a visit by then prime minister Shimon Peres.

Israel opened its office in Doha on May 26, 1996, though Qatar has not yet reciprocated.

Israel's head of mission in Doha, Sami Ravelli, set up the office by himself and was then joined by his wife.

Over the course of the next 12 months, two more diplomats and their wives arrived.

The trade office reports that the bulk of their work has been to act as messengers for Israeli and Qatari businessmen.

Oman and Qatar were the first members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC, to openly welcome Israeli leaders.

Saudi Arabia, the most powerful and influential member of the six-nation GCC - as well as the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain - have made no attempt to forge formal links with Israel.

"As Qatar imports nearly 99 percent of what it needs, Israeli businessmen are interested in exporting all types of products to Qatar, particularly agriculture and high technology," Segov said.

Israel's trade office in Doha was unable to confirm or deny the signing of any contracts between Israeli and Qatari businessmen over the last year.

The trade office said it's probable that large quantities of Israeli tomatoes are being exported to Qatar via a third-party country.

Also, despite long delays, Israel may still buy liquefied natural gas from Qatar, to be produced by Enron Corp., Segov said.

In October 1995, Enron and Israel signed a memorandum about Israel's purchase of gas from Qatar.

"The political decision has been made on the gas; the question now is one of price," Segov said. "Qatar is asking for a premium rate which may not be worth it, given the added transport costs."

If the transaction eventually goes through, the gas would come from reserves in Qatar's North Field - the largest single offshore field in the world - and would be liquefied at the port of Ras Laffan. The liquefied gas would then be shipped to an undetermined site either in Israel or in Akaba.

Ras Laffan's chairman, Youssef Kamal, told Bloomberg in an interview this week that he was still hopeful that the Enron deal could happen soon.

Qatar has natural gas reserves estimated at 250 trillion cubic feet, or more than 14 times what the US consumes in a year. *Bloomberg*

## JNF: Ronen blueprint 'a breach of covenant'

By DAVID HARRIS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal to reform the directorate of the Israel Lands Administration is a serious breach of covenant, according to the legal adviser of the Jewish National Fund.

Sharon's proposal to increase the number of seats in the directorate from 24 to 36 would dramatically reduce the JNF's power base. Currently, the JNF bloc vote controls 49% of the ILA directorate.

This threat to break up the JNF's power follows the organization's objection to the proposals of the Ronen Committee on reforming the ILA.

The recommendations, fully endorsed by Sharon and expected to come before the cabinet this Friday, call for the JNF to exchange much of the land and property it owns in the major cities in central Israel for the Galilee and Negev.

Sharon's argument is that the JNF was established to protect the land it purchased, and there is greater need for them to be operating away from the center of the country.

The land the JNF would

receive could be used as the JNF's power base. This includes forestation, land reclamation and the creation of parks.

The JNF remains politically and ideologically opposed to this proposal and has voted en masse against the Ronen proposals.

Therefore, Sharon has now decided to introduce legislation to lessen the organization's power.

The situation whereby the JNF has an effective veto cannot be tolerated any longer, Sharon said.

The JNF yesterday sent a legal opinion to Sharon which says the plan to change the directorate is "a serious breach of the letter of covenant between the State of Israel and the JNF of November 28, 1961."

There it says half of the directorate, less one, will be appointed by the JNF.

That document also points out that "the covenant holders will do all that is required and beneficial to implement the covenant."

Furthermore, the covenant says that any change proposed by one of the covenantors cannot be carried out, without six months written notice and is subject to the approval of the other signatory.

A spokesman for Sharon said last night the ministry is still studying the letter.

Sharon's proposal to increase the directorate to 36 would allow

for his director-general Giora Rom and Water Commissioner Meir Ben Meir to be appointed.

The increase would also allow for the first ever non-Jewish members of the ILA.

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| Dutch florin                             | 1.7571 | 1.7855    | 2.85 | 2.9278 |
| Swiss franc                              | 2.3711 | 2.4094    | 2.35 | 2.424  |
| Swedish krona                            | 0.4386 | 0.4457    | 0.43 | 0.4424 |
| Norwegian krona                          | 0.4757 | 0.5275    | 0.46 | 0.50   |
| Denish krona                             | 0.8533 | 0.8658    | 0.81 | 0.84   |
| Finnish mark                             | 2.4370 | 2.4784    | 2.39 | 2.5963 |
| Canadian dollar                          | 2.5753 | 2.6400    | 2.52 | 2.633  |
| Australian dollar                        | 0.7520 | 0.7842    | 0.74 | 0.77   |
| S. African rand                          | 0.5576 | 0.5731    | 0.54 | 0.56   |
| Belgian franc (10)                       | 2.8084 | 2.8537    | 2.78 | 2.8326 |
| Austrian schilling (10)                  | 2.0048 | 2.0372    | 1.97 | 2.0187 |
| Italian lire (1000)                      | 4.7487 | 4.8253    | 4.68 | 4.8056 |
| Jordanian dinar                          | 0.8800 | 1.0400    | 0.96 | 1.04   |
| Egyptian pound                           | 3.8227 | 3.9149    | 3.82 | 3.9149 |
| ECU                                      | 5.0873 | 5.1894    | 5.00 | 5.1265 |
| Irish punt                               | 2.3417 | 2.3795    | 2.30 | 2.3572 |
| Spanish peseta (100)                     |        |           |      |        |

\*These rates vary according to bank.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI







# Malone delivers goods

Utah tops Houston in Game 5, could wrap it up tonight

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The MVP finally had the kind of game everyone was waiting for.

Karl Malone broke out of an eight-day bout with mediocrity Tuesday night, scoring 29 points in his most productive offensive game of the Western Conference finals as Utah defeated Houston 96-91 in Game 5.

Malone, who shot 11-for-22 from the field — including 7-for-11 in the second half — also shut down Charles Barkley defensively to move the Jazz within one victory of the NBA Finals.

Malone, who had been saying "I'm due" for the better part of a week, grabbed 14 rebounds, shot 7-for-8 on free throws and handed out four assists. Several of his shots were rally-killers in the second half, when the Rockets refused to go down easily despite falling behind for good in the second quarter.

Malone, who averaged 27.4 points on 55 percent shooting this season but just 22 points on 43 percent this series, also locked up the victory with two free throws with 13 seconds left that gave Utah a 96-89 lead.

"Sometimes you forget what Karl Malone can do for your team, but when the game's all done you notice. He came up with a heck of a game tonight," Jazz guard John Stockton said. "I knew Karl was going to come back ready to play."

It was the 22nd straight home victory for the Jazz, who haven't lost at the Delta Center since February 23. They will look to wrap up the series tonight in Houston, but they'll have to become the first team to win a road game in this series.

Six Utah players scored in double figures. Stockton had another strong game with 17 points, Bryon Russell scored 13, Jeff Hornacek 11 and reserves Howard Eisley and Antwan Carr had 10 each.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 33 points for Houston, while Clyde Drexler had 15 and Matt Maloney 14.

Barkley, who unsuccessfully tried to draw Malone into a trash-talking duel in the first half, finished with just 10 points on 3-of-6 shooting. And he did almost nothing after making two 3-pointers in the first 3½ minutes of the game.

"I thought it was the best game we played in the series," Barkley said. "We got our butts kicked the first two times we played here, and in this game we had a chance to win. That will be encouraging for me on Sunday (a possible Game 7)."

Part of the reason for Barkley's poor showing was Malone, who held his ground against Barkley in one-on-one situations better than he did last weekend when the Rockets won two straight games to tie the series.

Malone also found the range on his turnaround jumper, which has become his bread-and-butter shot.

"If he keeps making that fadeaway jumper, I'll shake his hand after the series and say good luck against the Bulls," Barkley said.

Malone's performance put the Jazz in position to go where they've never gone — the NBA Finals — after four appearances in the conference finals over the past six years.

It also brought them one step closer to satisfying a local populace that has grown weary of all the close calls. When the Jazz awoke Tuesday morning, the headline in the local paper read: "Hey Karl, Isn't It Time To Deliver?"

"When someone takes a stab at you on the front page of the paper, it kind of upsets you," said Malone, who is known as "The Mailman." "I am human, contrary to what you guys think."

Barkley defended Malone by saying, "Unfortunately, he's the man. And he doesn't get all the credit, but he takes all the blame."

In the Eastern Conference finals, Miami, down 3 games to 1, was at Chicago last night.

## Zohar linked with Palace

By DEREK FATTAL

Itzik Zohar, the talented Betar Jerusalem midfielder who won his second National League championship medal last weekend, is considering a move to Crystal Palace.

The South London side who won promotion from the English First Division to the Premier League at the end of the season are now aiming to inject some fresh talent into their roster.

Zohar, who played a crucial role in guiding Maccabi Tel Aviv to a league and State Cup double last season told Israel Radio yesterday that he is interested in joining Palace, and plans to visit the club straight after the Israel squad's World Cup qualifying match against Russia in Moscow on June 8.

In other transfer news yesterday, Maccabi Tel Aviv's general manager Shimon Korek killed off speculation that Avi Nimni may be leaving the club in an exchange deal involving Maccabi Haifa's Ruvven Atar. Korek insisted that Nimni would only be released to a European club, and that if the player continues to play in Israel, he would do so only in Maccabi Tel Aviv's colors.

## Ben Johnson withdraws bid to lift ban

BRAMPTON, Ontario (Reuters) — Disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson on Tuesday withdrew his bid before the IAAF to lift a lifetime ban while he awaits his day in a Canadian court.

Johnson had filed suit in an Ontario court earlier this month to win the right to race again and prove he's still the world's fastest man.

## Defending champs and Sampras advance

PARIS (AP) — Top-ranked Pete Sampras stayed on course for the only Grand Slam title he has never won, demolishing Francisco Clavet 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to move into the third round of the French Open.

"Sampras, who has nine Grand Slam titles but has never won on the red clay of Roland Garros, posted his second straight-set victory in a row.

Defending champions Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Steffi Graf also swept into the third round with straight-set victories.

Kafelnikov, who has said it would take a "miracle" to retain his title, powered to a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win over France's Guillaume Raoux, one of Kafelnikov's most impressive performances since returning to action after a three-month layoff with a broken finger.

It's one step closer, the third-seeded Russian said when asked if the miracle was getting closer.

Graf, a five-time champion at Roland Garros, beat French wild card Amelie Mauresmo, the junior champion, 6-3, 6-3.

Thomas Muster, the fifth-seeded 1995 champion, advanced by beating Jeff Tarango 7-5, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 in an ill-tempered match.

Muster twice refused to shake Tarango's hand after the match, even after Tarango went to Muster's side and extended his hand.

Umpire Mike Morrissey stepped in between the two players to separate them.

Tarango contested a lot of calls at the start of the second set, argued with the umpire, mimicked and mocked Muster, and once served underhanded. Muster called for supervisor Bill Gilmour, who remained near the court until the end of the match.

Muster said, "I don't think what we saw today was very professional. I've never played anyone

like this."

Tarango commented: "Probably his ego is just a little bruised. He has such a big ego. If you take a little bit of his limelight, he just doesn't like it."

In 1995, Tarango walked off the court during a match in Wimbledon after arguing with the umpire, who was later slapped by Tarango's French wife.

The second-seeded Graf ran into trouble at 4-3 in the second set, when she served two double faults and had to save off three break points. But the German survived to win in 55 minutes.

Graf only returned to action two weeks ago after a three-month layoff because of surgery on her left knee.

"I am slowly getting there, I felt pretty comfortable," she said. Before the tournament, Graf said she was about two weeks away from her peak form.

The match apparently didn't last long enough for Graf to have a proper workout and she practiced for another hour after her win.

Eighth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain, the most consistent performer on clay this year, recovered from a slow start to down German qualifier Jens Knippschild 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 7-6(10-8).

Unseeded Andrei Medvedev, a dark horse, defeated Juan Albert Viloca 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Among the women, fourth-seeded Jana Novotna reeled off 11 straight games to beat Jana Kandarr 6-4, 6-0 and reach the third round.

Fifth-seeded Lindsay Davenport breezed past Elena Makarova 6-1, 6-3, while seventh-seeded Conchita Martinez routed Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-0.

Novotna, 28, a 10-year veteran on the tour, is playing some of the best clay-court tennis of her career this year. She beat Monica Seles to win the Madrid title last weekend.

UPSET IN THE MAKING — Borussia Dortmund's Karlheinz Riedle (c) celebrates after scoring his second goal against Juventus in last night's European Cup. The German side surprised the Italians, 3-1.

## Dortmund stun Juventus to lift European Cup

MUNICH (Reuters) — Borussia Dortmund caused the biggest upset in the European Cup Final for more than a decade when they beat hot favorites and holders Juventus 3-1 at the Olympic Stadium yesterday.

Two goals in the 29th and 34th minutes by Karlheinz Riedle and a third in the 71st minute from substitute Lars Ricken, who had been sent onto the pitch only 16 seconds before, sealed Juve's fate.

Juventus's solitary goal came from substitute Alessandro Del Piero after 64 minutes.

Dortmund took the lead with their first shot of the match after 29 minutes when Riedle lashed home a left-foot drive after chesting the ball down. He made it 2-0 for the German side when he rose unmarked to head home a

corner five minutes later.

Ricken scored a superb goal, lofting the ball high over Peruzzi's head from 30 meters after spotting the goalkeeper off his line.

Del Piero's goal was a close-range flick to end a move engineered by Juventus' Croatian striker Alen Boksic.

The result was the biggest upset since Steaua Bucharest beat Barcelona in the 1986 final.

Borussia became the first German team to win the Cup since Hamburg in 1983, who coincidentally also beat Juventus in that final.

The result must have been Heaven sent since thousands of Borussia Dortmund fans had packed into central Munich churches yesterday to pray for their team.

A church spokesman in Munich said there

was a huge demand from the fans for candles.

A German banner attached to a bronze statue of the holy bishop Korbinian in front of a church administration building read: "We're going to bring the cup home."

Yesterday's final is the 42nd since the competition began in the 1955-56 season. Real Madrid, who last won the trophy 31 years ago, are still the most successful club winning the competition six times. Italy have been the most successful nation with nine wins, followed by England with eight.

This is the second time Juventus and Borussia Dortmund have met in a European final in the 1990s. In 1992-93 Juventus beat Borussia 3-1 away and 3-0 at home to win the UEFA Cup by a record aggregate score of 6-1.

## Belle hits grand slam, extends hitting streak to 22

CHICAGO (AP) — Albert Belle hit a grand slam against his former team and extended his hitting streak to a career-high 22 games as the White Sox beat the Cleveland Indians 8-2 on Tuesday.

Doug Drabek (4-3) pitched seven strong innings as the White Sox gained a split of the two-game series.

Belle had dropped a fly ball for an error and was 0-for-2 with a strikeout when he came to the plate in the fourth with Chicago leading 4-0. Albie Lopez (2-3) walked Frank Thomas intentionally to load the bases and Belle then lined his 10th homer of the season over the fence in right.

It was Belle's second grand slam this season — both have followed an intentional walk to Thomas — and ninth of his career.

Drabek allowed three hits, walked three and struck out three. He was hit in the arm by a line drive of Sandy Alomar's bat in the bottom of the seventh but stayed in and finished out the inning.

Orioles 10, Yankees 6

Pete Incaviglia drove in four runs and Jeffrey Hammonds hit a three-run homer as visiting Baltimore won its eighth games in 10 tries.

Kenny Rogers (3-3), who has just one win in six starts since April 23, was pounded for nine runs — six earned — and six hits in 4½ innings.

Baltimore, which swept the two-game series, opened an eight-game lead over the defending World Series champions, who lost for the seventh time in eight games. New York, 1-6 against AL East opponents, has dropped into third place in the division behind the first-place Orioles and Toronto.

Red Sox 7, Brewers 6

Pinch-hitter Mike Stanley's RBI single broke a seventh-inning tie, giving Boston a home victory.

The Red Sox trailed 6-4 in the sixth before Mo Vaughn doubled and Reggie Jefferson hit his seventh home run to tie it. But with two men on and two out in the seventh, manager Jimmy Williams replaced Jefferson with Stanley.

Right-hander Bob Wickman relieved lefty Joel Adamson (1-1)

to face the righty Stanley, who lined a 3-2 pitch into left field.

Athletics 8, Royals 6 (10)

Jose Canseco and Scott Spiezio had two RBIs apiece when Oakland batted around in the top of the 10th and the A's held on for a wild win.

Kansas City took a 2-0 lead into the ninth before the A's — held to one hit for eight-plus innings by Jose Rosado — got a two-run homer by Mark McGwire and a solo shot from Scott Spiezio to take the lead.

But the Royals sent it into extra innings on pinch-hitter Scott Cooper's homer in the bottom of the ninth.

The A's then scored five runs in the 10th, and the Royals came back with three runs in their half of the frame.

Twins 11, Mariners 10

Norm Charlton walked Chuck Knoblauch with the bases loaded, capping a six-run ninth-inning rally for the host Twins.

Seattle's ninth-inning collapse spoiled a game in which Ken Griffey Jr. and Joey Cora each set records. Griffey hit his 23rd homer, breaking his own major league mark for homers through May. Cora went 4-for-6 to extend his hitting streak to a team-record 22 games, which also tied the AL.

National League

| East Division    | W  | L  | Pct. | GB |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
| Atlanta          | 35 | 15 | .700 | —  |
| Florida          | 30 | 19 | .612 | 4½ |
| Montreal         | 27 | 22 | .551 | 7½ |
| New York         | 27 | 23 | .540 | 8  |
| Philadelphia     | 19 | 31 | .380 | 16 |
| Central Division |    |    |      |    |
| Houston          | 26 | 26 | .490 | —  |
| Pittsburgh       | 24 | 28 | .460 | 3  |
| St. Louis        | 21 | 28 | .428 | 3  |
| Chicago          | 19 | 30 | .388 | 5  |
| Cincinnati       | 18 | 32 | .360 | 6  |
| West Division    |    |    |      |    |
| San Francisco    | 29 | 20 | .592 | —  |
| Colorado         | 27 | 23 | .540 | 2½ |
| Los Angeles      | 26 | 23 | .531 | 3  |
| San Diego        | 20 | 29 | .408 | 9  |

mark for switch hitters.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Phillies 2, Reds 1

Curt Schilling stopped Barry Larkin's streak of reaching base at 13 — one shy of the NL record — and pitched a complete game as Philadelphia won on the road.

Rob Butler had an RBI single and Rico Brogna homered off rookie Brett Tomko (0-1) as the Phillies ended Cincinnati's longest winning streak of the season at four games. Cincinnati came away with the worst record in the major leagues (18-32).

Schilling (7-4) rebounded from his shortest start in four years by pitching a six-hitter and striking out 11 during his third complete game in 12 starts. The right-hander lasted only 2½ innings last Thursday, when he gave up nine runs to the New York Mets.

Larkin singled in the first inning, but fled to right in the third to end his streak one shy of Pedro Guerrero's NL record set in 1985.

Expos 5, Mets 4

Darrin Fletcher homered and pinch-hitter F.P. Santangelo hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the fifth inning as Montreal rallied for a home win.

With the Expos trailing 4-2 in the fifth, Fletcher led off with a homer off Mets starter Mark Clark (5-3).

American League

| East Division    | W  | L  | Pct. | GB  |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Baltimore        | 33 | 15 | .688 | —   |
| Toronto          | 25 | 22 | .532 | 7½  |
| New York         | 26 | 24 | .520 | 8   |
| Detroit          | 23 | 26 | .469 | 10½ |
| Boston           | 20 | 27 | .426 | 12½ |
| Central Division |    |    |      |     |
| Cleveland        | 26 | 22 | .542 | —   |
| Milwaukee        | 22 | 24 | .478 | 3   |
| Chicago          | 22 | 26 | .468 | 3½  |
| Kansas City      | 22 | 26 | .458 | 4   |
| Minnesota        | 21 | 29 | .420 | 6   |
| West Division    |    |    |      |     |
| Texas            | 27 | 21 | .563 | —   |
| Anaheim          | 25 | 23 | .521 | 2   |
| Seattle          | 26 | 24 | .520 | 2   |
| Oakland          | 21 | 31 | .404 | 8   |

Tuesday's AL results: Detroit 6, Anaheim 2; Boston 7, Milwaukee 6; Texas 15, Toronto 5; Chicago 8, Cleveland 2; Baltimore 10, NY 6; Oakland 8, Kansas City 6 (10); Minnesota 11, Seattle 10.

Tuesday's NL results: St. Louis 8, Colorado 6; San Francisco 5, Houston 4 (10); Philadelphia 2, Cincinnati 1; Chicago 8, Pittsburgh 7; Montreal 5, NY 4; Atlanta 9, San Diego 2; Florida 8, Los Angeles 5.

## Ronaldo deal breaks down

MADRID (AP) — After two days of uncertainty about Brazilian superstriker Ronaldo's future, FC Barcelona chairman Jose Luis Nunez said negotiations had broken off and that he expects the player to announce an agreement with another team.

Nunez said that the final meetings with representatives for the 20-year-old player, voted the world's No. 1 player in 1996, were "forced" and that he felt they had already reached an agreement with Italy's Internazionale of Milan beforehand.

The break came only a day after Ronaldo's three representatives and Barcelona chairman Jose Luis Nunez announced they had reached agreement to extend Ronaldo's contract by two years to 2006 and to raise his annual salary of 250 million pesetas (\$1.7m) to 500m pesetas (\$3.4m) after tax.

The deal, which was to conclude several months of talks, was intended to end doubts over Ronaldo's future following his threat to leave Barcelona unless his eight-season contract, begun last year, was improved.

It would have made Ronaldo one of the world's highest paid sportsmen.

His new contract waiver was to be 10 billion pesetas (\$70m), more than twice that of the first accord. News reports in Norway yesterday, where Ronaldo was preparing for an exhibition game with the Brazilian national team, cited the player as saying he was happy with the new deal although Inter had offered more money.

A spokesman for Inter yesterday said that if Ronaldo fails to sign a new deal with Barcelona, then the club Inter would still be interested. Earlier yesterday, a Barcelona spokesman said a last-minute financial disagreement on how a bonus of some 2b pesetas (\$14m) would be paid to Ronaldo prevented the sealing of the new accord.

Ronaldo became the most expensive player in Spanish soccer when he left PSV Eindhoven last year to sign with Barcelona for \$20m.

He is top scorer in the Spanish league with 34 goals.

Sports Editors:  
Joseph Hoffman & Ori Lewis

## CLASSIFIEDS

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SEEKING



## CRITIC'S CHOICE

## ISRAEL FESTIVAL

Tonight is your last chance to see the Kirov Swan Lake at the Sultan's Pool at 8.

The English theater productions start off with Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* starring Richard Todd and Simon (of *Young Churchill* fame) Ward as Lord Goring. It's on the Sherover stage at 9 p.m. tonight and Saturday and at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Downstairs in Rebecca Crown, it's charismatic Steven Berkoff in the title role of his own production of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* tonight at 8, tomorrow at 11 a.m. For jazz fans there's a one-time-only performance by whizzkid saxophonist James Carter, said to be the best since John Coltrane, tonight in the Tent at 9. All shows are in Jerusalem.

Helen Kaye

The classical music program of this year's Israel Festival leaves a lot to be desired. Among the opening concerts are Berlin's Ancient Music Academy performing two Bach programs today (8:30) at the Israel Arts & Science School and tomorrow (10 a.m.) at the Henry Crown Synagogue Hall. Tomorrow (1) at St. Andrew's Church, Malcolm Bilson and Robert Levin play piano music by Mozart and Schubert on fortepianos. They present a different program of music by the same composers Saturday (11 a.m.) at the YMCA hall. The Netherlands Wind Ensemble performs tomorrow (4) and Saturday (9:30) at the Henry Crown Synagogue Hall, and Saturday (9) at the Dormition Abbey there is a performance by the Melanchton Choir from Germany.

Michael Aizenstadt

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

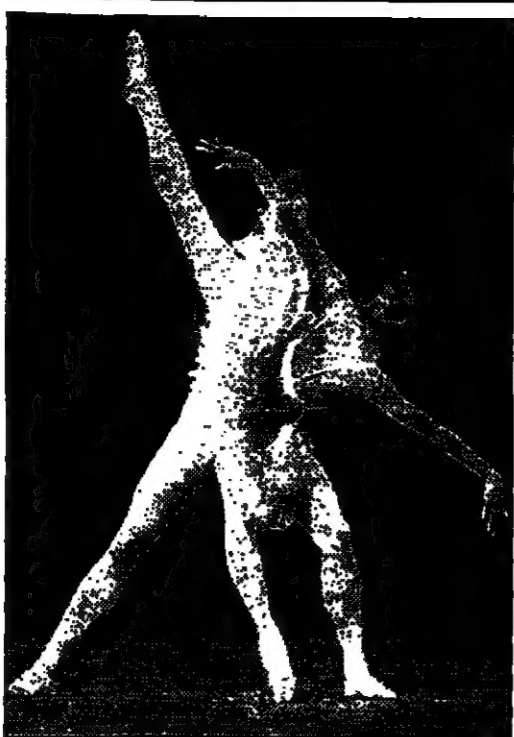
## MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Tabca Zimmermann, one of the greatest violists of our generation, presents a recital with pianist Menahem Wiesenberg playing music by Bach, Schumann, Brahms and Wiesenberg, tonight (8:30) at the Jerusalem Music Center and Saturday (9) at the Tel Aviv Museum. Composer Aharon Raziel presents a concert of his own works tonight (8:30) at Hasadna in Jerusalem.

## OPERA

## HELEN KAYE

Verdi's *The Masked Ball* is about love, jealousy and regicide. Soprano Michele Crider sings



The Kirov Ballet presents 'Swan Lake.'

(Gadi Degon)

Amelia to baritone Roberto Servile's Renato. Tenor Alberto Cupido is King Gustaf III of Sweden. Amelia's would-be lover. This is the second of the Berlin Opera's guest productions at the New Israeli Opera. It's directed by Götz Friedrich and conducted by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. It opens tonight at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 8. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with baritone Ralf Lukas singing the bird-catcher Papageno is on the same stage tomorrow at 1 p.m.

## THEATER

## HELEN KAYE

For years actor Ofer Shikartzi ignored his brother Dekel, who was born with Down's syndrome, until he began to see the person under the label. *The Other Side of the House* by Bilal Attan-Hadas is the dramatization of the brothers' moving journey towards one another. A Fringe Theater production at ZOA House on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Recommended. (Hebrew.)

## TV

## CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash  
6:31 News in Arabic  
6:45 Exercise Time  
7:00 Good Morning Israel

## EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Family Ties  
8:45 Medicine Demystified  
9:00 Arithmetic  
9:25 Reading  
9:45 Programs for the very young  
10:15 Astronomy  
10:30 Language  
11:00 Mathematics  
11:10 French  
11:30 Biology  
12:30 Art  
13:00 In the Heat of the Night  
14:00 Surprise Train  
14:30 Kitty Cat and Tommy  
14:55 Quentin Quack  
15:00 Auto

## CHANNEL 1

15:30 Motormice from Mars  
15:55 Booby  
16:00 Friends of Shosh  
16:25 Velocities  
16:45 Eye on TV  
16:50 A New Evening  
17:34 Zap Around the Country  
18:10 Time for Language  
18:15 News in English  
ARABIC PROGRAMS  
18:30 Hearing from scratch  
18:40 News  
HEBREW PROGRAMS  
18:30 News flash  
18:40 News  
18:45 News  
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## CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs  
6:30 Tricky - cartoon  
7:00 Breakfast Magazine  
9:00 Meetings  
10:00 Pablo  
11:00 Talking About It  
12:30 Pinocchio  
13:00 Truth or Dare  
13:30 Kala and Alie  
13:30 Everything's Open  
14:00 The Kids of Degraat Street  
14:30 To the  
15:00 The Best  
15:00 Israel Video Clips  
16:00 The Gold and the Beautiful  
17:00 News Magazine with Rafi Reshef  
17:30 Open Cards  
18:00 Almost Perfect  
18:30 Kickoff - soccer  
19:00 Pacific Blue  
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## TV

## JORDAN TV

15:30 Holy Koran  
15:35 French programs  
16:00 NBA Basketball  
17:00 Out of This World  
17:30 French programs  
19:00 News in French  
19:30 News head- lines  
19:35 Parenthood  
20:00 Cinema, Cinema  
20:30 The American Chart Show  
21:10 Kung Fu  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Feature film - Family Rescue  
00:00 Taratata

## MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop  
14:30 The 700 Club  
15:00 The Morning  
15:30 Dennis the Menace  
16:00 Larry King  
17:00 Family Challenge  
17:45 Bestman's World  
18:10 Perfect Strangers  
18:35 Saved by the Bell  
19:00 Showbiz  
19:30 World News Tonight  
20:00 CNN News  
20:30 One West  
21:30 Two Fingers  
21:30 From Striplin  
22:30 Camel Comedy Club  
23:00 The 700 Club  
00:00 Quantum Shopping

## CABLE

## ITV 3 (33)

18:00 Cartoons  
18:30 The World of Art  
17:30 Panorama  
18:00 Her Majesty's  
18:30 News in Arabic  
19:30 News in Russian  
20:00 News  
20:45 Telessef  
21:15 Circle of Two  
21:30 A classic affair develops between an aging artist and a school- girl. With Richard Burton and Tatum O'Neal  
22:30 Urban Angel - new crime series

## ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now  
16:00 Hot Shots  
16:30 Opovox  
17:00 Kap Art  
17:30 Faces of Culture  
18:00 Destinos  
18:30 Art Workshop  
19:00 World War I  
19:30 The 100 Years  
19:50 Hello Paula  
20:00 A New Evening  
20:30 Family Album  
21:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9  
21:30 The Center of Things  
22:00 The Center of Things  
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## ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now  
16:00 Hot Shots  
16:30 Opovox  
17:00 Kap Art  
17:30 Faces of Culture  
18:00 Destinos  
18:30 Art Workshop  
19:00 World War I  
19:30 The 100 Years  
19:50 Hello Paula  
20:00 A New Evening  
20:30 Family Album  
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## PRIME TIME TV

| 1                          | 2     | 3            | 4            | 5                     | 6                         |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 18:30 News flash<br>Whoopi | News  | Sunset Beach | See Jane Run | Animaniacs            | Treasure Island Wild Film |
| 19:00 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 19:30 '97 - '97            | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 20:00 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 20:30 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 21:00 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 21:30 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 22:00 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 22:30 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |
| 23:00 News                 | Money | The Commish  | See Jane Run | Married with Children | Balthus                   |

household are narrowed down to a government and a dis-embodied youngster. Wendy Craig, Jill Bennett and James Villiers.

22:30 *Seashore Blues* (1973) - comic drama. A band of misfits take on a project to build an old airplane and escape. With Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland, Peter Boyle and John Savage.

22:35 *The Turning* (1982) - a mentally disturbed young man tries to prevent his parents' divorce which leads instead to violence. With Tess Harper.

22:55 *Profile for Murder* (1996) - a police woman investigates a charming male suspect of murder.

23:00 *Open University* (1996) - Cats and Dogs, part 2 (pt).

23:05 *The Big Questions* - 5:15 Three Festivals of the Pacific (pt).

23:10 *Royal Ballet* - 11:25 Messiah Masterclass.

23:25 *Plutarch: Pirates of the Pacific* (pt).

23:30 *Treasure Islands: The Money Pit of Oak Island* (pt).

23:35 *Wild Film, part 1* - Natural Passion (pt).

23:40 *Vanessa Redgrave* (pt).

23:45 *House of Culture with Yair Garbus* (pt).

23:50 *The Center of Things* (pt).

23:55 *World Science* (pt).

24:00 *Geographic Explorer* (pt).

24:05 *Open University* - Man on the Run; Universe; Portrait of a Family.

24:10 *Pirates: Pirates and the Slave Trade*.

24:15 *Treasure Islands: King Solomon's Gift*.

24:20 *Wild Film: Hide and Seek*.

24:25 *Seashore Blues* - an interview with one of the most important figurative artists of the century.

24:30 *House of Culture with Yair Garbus*.

24:35 *Hand Carters* - a look at the work of the famous photographer 22:50 National Geographic Explorer.

24:40 *Open University*.

24:45 *Great Houses of the World*.

24:50 *Whodunnit: Greek-Roman Style European*.

24:55 *Swimming*.

25:00 *World Soccer*.

25:05 *World Soccer*.

25:10 *World Soccer*.

25:15 *World Soccer*.

25:20 *World Soccer*.

25:25 *World Soccer*.

25:30 *World Soccer*.

25:35 *World Soccer*.

25:40 *World Soccer*.

25:45 *World Soccer*.

25:50 *World Soccer*.

25:55 *World Soccer*.

26:00 *World Soccer*.

22:30 Soccer: International Junior Tour, France.

23:00 Motorcycling: Austrian Grand Prix.

00:00 Tennis: French Open Roland Garros.

00:05 Boxing: WBC Light Heavyweight Championship.

00:10 Drag Racing.

00:15 *STAR SPORTS*.

00:20 Formula 1 Championship.

00:25 Spanish Grand Prix.

00:30 Golf: PGA.

00:35 Basketball: NBA Game of the Week.

00:40 Hong Kong International Triathlon.

00:45 World Rugby.

00:50 Tennis: US ATP Clay Court Championship.

00:55 Luge World Championship.

01:00 WWF Raw.

01:05 WWF Football.

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## NEWS

in brief

## Yafa Deri testimony ends

Esther Werbeder, an American benefactor, left her "more than \$100,000," Yafa Deri said yesterday, completing three weeks of testimony in the fraud trial of her husband, Shas leader Aryeh Deri. She also was questioned yesterday about her husband's trips to London, and about Martin Brown, who hosted him while he was there. Deri's lawyer, Navot Tel-Tsur, said she is his last witness.

The trial will continue Sunday with co-defendant Aryeh Weinberg on the witness stand.



Yafa Deri  
(Brian Hendler)

## Witness: I took driving test by proxy

An illiterate Tira resident told Army Radio yesterday morning that he gave someone his identity card and paid him NIS 700 to take the theory part of his driver's exam. Several days later, his ID was returned and he received a notice that he had passed the test. Thousands of Arabs "pass" the test in a similar manner, Army Radio said. Meanwhile, Haifa Licensing Bureau head Daniel Meir, arrested on Tuesday in connection with the driver's license scam, was released on NIS 75,000 bail yesterday, placed under house arrest for 10 days, and barred from leaving the country.

## GIF approves DM 18m. for research grants

Grants for 50 new joint research projects in life sciences, medicine, social science and the humanities have been approved by the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development. The grants total DM 18 million.

Established by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and then-premier Shimon Peres 11 years ago, GIF has supported over 450 joint research projects by Israeli and German scientists. Among the recipients this year is Nobel Prize laureate Prof. Hartmut Michel of Frankfurt, who cooperates with the Hebrew University in a project on proteins in cell membranes. Projects that will receive grants include work on "mad cow disease," Alzheimer's disease, the link between mental stress and the immune system, cancer drugs, the human genome, and dyslexia and heart disease in children.

Judy Siegel

## Doctor removes worm from patient's eye

A 25-year-old man who returned from Zaire a few months ago complaining of "itching" in his eyes yesterday underwent a rare operation at Meir Hospital, where doctors removed from the organ a four-centimeter-long worm. Dr. Ehud Assia and colleagues at the Kfar Sava hospital's ophthalmology department were surprised to see a worm "wandering around" in the man's eye. The source was a parasite that apparently bit the patient, leaving pieces that remained dormant in his body and then developed into a live worm. Assia said that while African doctors have reported on such cases, it was the first time he had seen a live worm in an eye. "This case points up the importance of preventive treatment in people travelling to Africa and South America," the doctor said.

Judy Siegel

## Civil Service cracks down on political activity

In advance of the upcoming party primaries, Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander yesterday ordered ministry directors-general to enforce regulations banning political activity by senior civil servants. Among other regulations, civil servants in the top four grades are barred from being members of party central committees.

Jerusalem Post Staff

## Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the king of spades, the 7 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 7 of clubs, and the 10 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the 7 of diamonds, and the queen of clubs.

Jerusalem Post Staff



## A cry from the heart

Public sector psychologists hold a placard that reads "The bird of the soul is dying" during a demonstration near the Knesset yesterday to demand higher wages and better working conditions. Police detained six of the protesters.

(Brian Hendler)

## Coalition pushes to abolish TV license fee

By DAVID HARRIS

Moledet MK Benny Elon's bill to abolish the television license fee was approved yesterday for its first reading by the Knesset Finance Committee.

The vote went according to party lines, with the coalition winning 9-7. All coalition members voted with Elon's proposal, while Labor and Meretz voted against. MK Alexander Lubotsky (Third Way) abstained.

The vote was the second in two days on the issue. On Tuesday, the committee approved the bill's introduction to the legislature.

process, but MK Avraham Shohat (Labor) and MK Haim Oron (Meretz), two of the main opponents of the proposal, managed to delay the vote for 24 hours on a legal technicality.

With many of the regular committee members absent, and the real possibility that all opposition members would vote the bill down, Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan made a frantic last minute effort to ensure there would be a coalition majority.

Following the vote MK Ophir Pines (Labor) described the plan to remove the license fee as "a

scandal. While Arutz 7 is operating illegally, how can we act like this?"

The feeling among opposition MKs is that this bill is the latest stage in the battle between the government and the Israel Broadcasting Authority. The government, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has constantly maintained that IBA gives favorable coverage to Labor, but is unfair in its repeated criticism of the government.

"We are not against IBA," said MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas). "We just feel there should be a level playing field."

## Dementia tied to lack of vitamin B12

By JUDY SIEGEL

Forgetfulness and dementia don't have to be signs of Alzheimer's disease - they could result from a deficit in vitamin B12 that harms the neurological system and causes anemia.

According to researchers at Tel Aviv University, one of the factors in this condition is the following of a rigid vegetarian diet, abstaining completely from meat, eggs and milk products.

At a ceremony marking the establishment of the Lester and Sally Antin Fund, a new Tel Aviv University fund for the study of dementia in the elderly not connected with Alzheimer's or senile dementia, Prof. Uri Seligson of the hematology department of the Sackler Medical School said the story of vitamin B12 anemia is among the most dramatic in the history of medicine.

It began with Thomas Edison, who in 1855 described an illness in which patients gradually

became pale, confused and weak, and that can even lead to death.

It was later called pernicious anemia. In 1880, Dr. Paul Ehrlich described the characteristic condition of the blood in such patients. In 1926, scientists suggested patients could recover by eating large amounts of liver extracts. Four years later, it was discovered that feeding patients beef with gastric juices cured them.

Among geriatric patients suffering from dementia, 4 percent to 16 percent were found to suffer from the vitamin deficiency. Doctors, said Seligson, must be educated to look for this problem in such patients. An ordinary blood test is insufficient for a diagnosis, but new tests and advanced equipment that the new TAU fund is working on will make it possible to carry out mass screening in old age homes throughout the country.

The researchers will also try to locate the gene that causes the type of anemia resulting from a defective receptor for the vitamin.

## YU criticized for award to 'Jewish Press' publisher

Jerusalem Post Staff

Yeshiva University, which has been struggling to present an image of tolerance, has come under fire for honoring the publisher of the *Jewish Press*, a Brooklyn newspaper whose ideology has been called "extremist" and "polarizing." Rabbi Shalom Klass, the publisher, was to receive a "lifetime achievement in journalism" award last night at the annual dinner of YU's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS).

The university, the preeminent Orthodox institution of higher education in the US, yesterday tried to distance itself from the newspaper, stressing that the award is for an individual, not an endorsement of his paper or its philosophy.

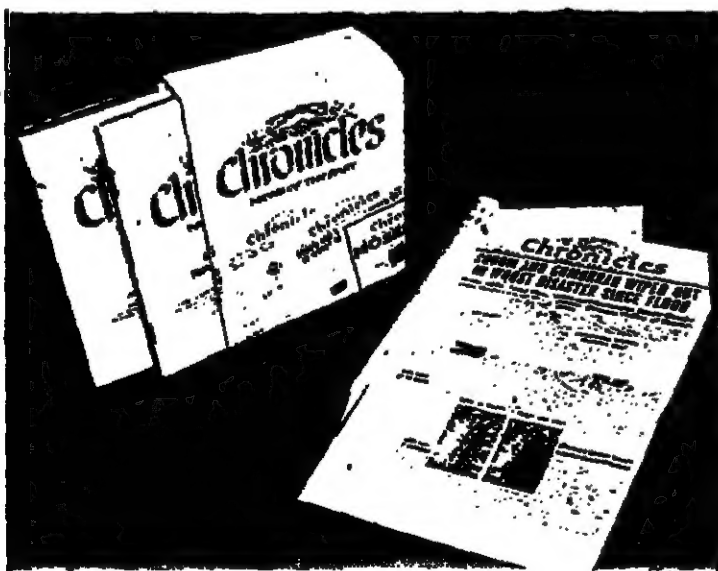
Steve Bayme, director of communal affairs at the American Jewish Committee, said he was "stunned" by the decision to honor Klass.

## What's on at the Festival

Shalva & David  
FESTIVAL

Jerusalem Theater  
Sherover - An Ideal Husband tonight at 9; tomorrow at 3 p.m.; Saturday at 9 p.m.  
Henry Crown - Jerusalem Symphony - Stravinsky special, 8:30 p.m.; Alte Musik, Program B at 10 a.m.; Netherlands Wind Ensemble (NWE) at 4 p.m., both tomorrow; NWE, Saturday at 9 p.m.  
Rebecca Crown - Coriolanus tonight at 8; tomorrow, 11 a.m.  
Foyer - jazz, Amie Lawrence combo tonight; Flutalk, Saturday, 11:45 p.m. Free.  
Plaza - Electrifying Festival - opening ceremony, 8 p.m. Free.  
Sultan's Pool - Kirov Ballet, Saturday, 9 p.m.

Swan Lake at 8 p.m.  
Israel Museum Tent - jazz, James Carter at 9 p.m.  
Targ, Ein Kerem - Anniversary Program A, Saturday at 11 a.m.  
A&S - Malcha - Alte Musik, Program A - fortepiano, YNCA - fortepiano, Bilson/Levin B, Saturday, 11 a.m.  
St. Andrews Church - fortepiano, Bilson/Levin A, tomorrow, 1 p.m.  
Dormition - Abbey Melancthon Choir, Saturday, 9 p.m.  
Hangar Talmot - Zik, Enerzik tonight and Saturday, 9 p.m.  
Caesarea - Kirov, Swan Lake, Saturday, 9 p.m.

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Steven Berkoff

(Alastair Miller)

## Dramatizing the despots

By HELEN KAYE

The leader who doesn't keep his ear to the ground, "who doesn't listen to the heart of the people and doesn't realize that the world is wider than his personal beliefs, is doomed to destruction," says actor/director Steven Berkoff, Britain's leading theatrical iconoclast.

Of course, Berkoff means Coriolanus, the charismatic hero of Shakespeare's play. Berkoff directs and plays the title role in *Coriolanus*, one of the least performed dramas in the Shakespeare canon "and a warning against any extreme 'ism,'" Berkoff added at a press conference yesterday. The play opens at the Jerusalem Theater tonight, one of three English language plays at the Israel Festival.

The story centers around the Roman general, Coriolanus, whose unwavering moral integrity brings him glory, then infamy and death. Berkoff admires the play, "because it can provoke division in an audience, with some admir-

ing Coriolanus almost as a Nietzschean superman" and others damning him for "a brutal despot, arrogant and ruthless."

Its hero's superman image, says Berkoff, caused the American army to ban a proposed production of the play in Germany in 1945, lest it reawaken vanquished aspirations.

"Plays reflect the societies they're in. The English are very neurotic, that's why you see a lot of Hamlets, and Chekhov with his spineless, drippy kvetching. But Coriolanus is ruthless, strong, powerful and the British can't get their crumbling teeth around the role," says Berkoff, who visibly delights in savaging the theatrical establishment.

He has set the current production in a 1930s fascist state, a lot like Mussolini's Italy. Berkoff also played Hitler in the TV series of Herman Wouk's *War and Remembrance*.

He feels that "only a Jew can play Hitler, can really get under his skin. Besides, Hitler's spinning in his grave."